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No. 10

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The American Bee Journal

HAMILTON, ILLINOIS

October, 1949

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• As We

THAT POLLINATION PROBLEM

A READER FROM A NEIGHBORING state reports a mediocre crop for the 1949 season and ends his letter as follows:—

"It's pollen pay or _____? It's what the bees were put here for. Who is going to be the caretaker and who is going to pay the cost?"

Pretty well stated. It would be ideal if we, as a bee journal, could conjure up a system whereby standard schedules could be set for partnership arrangements of "we share the seed and I get the honey," or "you pay me rental of \$5.00 a colony and I'll take my chances," or some other arrangement varying with the amount of nectar that probably can be obtained from the crop pollinated—red clover and cranberries being highest on the list of those requiring remuneration for the beekeeper.

But it is questionable whether such standards can ever be made, although they may be suggested. As old as is the practice of renting bees for orchard pollination we still hear of wide divergences in compensation to the beekeeper. One Illinois beekeeper moved his bees 50 miles and got only \$2.00 per colony rental; obviously below cost if all items of moving were added together.

Plenty of beekeepers are still ready and willing to move to various clover fields just for the honey they can get, the pollination services thrown in, and possibly a pasture rental paid for locating the bees.

The situation has changed from a few years ago, however. The beekeeper now stands more chance of loss than formerly, his crops are not as sure, and his costs of moving vastly increased. He will have to be compensated for the pollination services of his bees or else the farmer or rancher may be forced to install his own bees to be assured of adequate pollination.

In a season like 1949 in the Middle West, when everything seemed to be favorable for honey and nectar flows, the beekeeper probably could afford to take his chances on the crop of honey being sufficient compensation. Yet he probably

could have obtained just as good a yield by setting his bees down in the average densely populated areas as by moving them to the ladino or the alsike.

In our enthusiasm to inform the farmer, particularly the legume seed grower, of the efficacy of bees, we must not lose sight of the fact that such pollination will not always show the same degree of success on the same crop. Some of the factors involved are: the blooming of competing nectar-producing flowers, the climatic conditions, the amount of rainfall and the condition of the bees.

A four bushel per acre crop may be harvested from red clover one year, but the next year may show little effect from the use of the honey bee. This should be made clear to the prospective farmer.

The fact that the beekeeper stands as much or more chance of failure as the farmer, through lack of a honey crop or even deterioration of the colonies while on the specific crop, should be understood.

HIGH HUMIDITY AND HONEY FERMENTATION

IN OUR CEMENT-FLOORED, DRY CELLAR at home we are having difficulty with storage. Leather boots, shoes, suitcases etc. are showing mold. Such conditions have not appeared at our home for a good many years. The cause, of course is the universally high humidity this summer, and naturally conditions are intensified in a cellar where evaporation of moisture by sunshine is minimized.

At the American Bee Journal office more letters than usual have come in asking what is the matter with this year's honey. It will not ripen. Even honey in the comb, already sealed, shows a tendency towards fermentation.

In our own bee yards we are anxious to get off the white spring honey before the fall flow comes on and is mixed with the lighter grades. Yet the bees are still storing white honey as is attested by a mere shaking of the unsealed

See It •



comb. Most unsealed comb seems to be nectar, not yet ripened by the bees.

Under such circumstances we, and many beekeepers, are in a quandary. We have in the past extracted combs containing part unsealed honey with an average water content near 20%. Such honey is very apt to show fermentation and to bulge the cans if put immediately into storage. In the past, we have stored the light-bodied honey in open tanks and in the ordinary dry atmosphere of summer a week or two of such exposure with a little stirring has ripened and thickened the honey to proper density.

But with high humid days persisting, we are afraid to do this. The only solution seems to be to leave the honey on the hives until it is sealed, or better until a time of lower humidity. In our own case, selected supers, mostly sealed, are coming off and will be stacked, staggered, in the honey house. Then for a week the furnace will be turned on, in the hope that the dry heat may evaporate the moisture sufficiently to extract and pack in sixties without danger of later trouble. Perhaps that would also be desirable for storage of comb honey showing signs of fermentation.

WILL IT WORK?

THERE IS GREAT NEED FOR FAR MORE information regarding our bee pasture than is now available. Many questions will remain unanswered for a long time to come if we wait for our research agencies to make the necessary investigations. The urgency of the pollination problems in many highly cultivated areas will eventually compel public attention, but in the meantime some progress should be made.

The question is raised as to whether a sufficiently large group of volunteer observers can be gathered to collect much desired information. We would like to know how many of our readers would be interested in joining such a group. If each would record the blooming dates of the principal sources of nectar, the weather conditions under which the bees were most active, and the gain or loss of the colony on scales, it

would be helpful. If a sufficient number over a sufficiently wide area would volunteer, it might soon be possible to tell something about the factors which insure a honeyflow.

Information sheets should be printed which would require only that the observer check in the proper place the date, the temperature, the wind direction and such other weather data, along with kind of soil, bee activity and other items of importance. Such information concerning the behavior of the bees in relation to any one source of nectar, if sufficiently extensive, might throw much light on some of the mysteries of nectar yields. Most people are busy, and the question is whether a sufficient number are interested enough to give the time necessary to the gathering of sufficient information to be of value.

LANCASHIRE ANNIVERSARY

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THEIR Central Council, J. E. Berry, comes a copy of the Lancashire Beekeepers' Association Golden Jubilee Yearbook. It contains a history of the association, reports on research, disease, fairs and prizes, etc., as well as a financial report of the central association and its branches.

This association has its own label and its own library. A sign of the interest and of the activity in the association is shown not only by this fine book, but also by its list of members. Lancashire County is nearly as large as one of our biggest Illinois counties.

Yet these Lancashire folks have 1500 members in their bee association. While, no doubt these members are interested in financial remuneration from their bees, they still have what we in America have largely lost in our beekeeping—the desire to keep bees for the pleasure there is in it.

We might well pattern after them to this extent. Perhaps as we in America are forced to concentrate our energies on smaller tracts, we may also grow into more interested and larger groupings.

Wintering Out of Doors

by A. H. Gates



The author's three yards at Garfield, Washington. Top picture shows yard facing east; (the center) yard facing south; (the bottom) facing west. All have plenty of wind but no heavy packing is used—just tar paper wrapping.

Mr. Gates is a sideline beekeeper located in eastern Washington where the climate compares to that of Iowa and Missouri. He keeps Italian bees in ten-frame standard equipment and has three locations in clover areas. A two-queen system is used exclusively. Wintering in two hive bodies and dividing them in the spring is the basis of his method.

During the winter the colonies are wrapped with tar paper and a top entrance only is used. The latter part of March it is changed to a bottom entrance. The first week in April the wrapping is removed, the colonies examined for queen-rightness, and a super of partly filled combs, mainly pollen, is added. Up to May first, colonies are equalized by changing positions. About May first, the brood in the two hive bodies of each colony is equalized and an excluder placed between them. Four or five days later the hive body having **no eggs** is placed on a bottom board back of the parent colony and facing in the opposite direction. The divisions are given young queens and about June 10 at the beginning of the flow the parent colonies are Demareed. After the flow, when both colonies have been reduced to two hive bodies, the parent colony and the division are united by placing the division on top of the parent, using the newspaper method. Later the top hive body of the division is extracted, and the lower one stored away for spring feeding.

This type of management is intensive rather than extensive beekeeping, but brings good results and practically no winter losses. A full account of this system appeared in the American Bee Journal for May, 1948.

LAST winter really tested wintering methods as it was one of the hardest this region has ever experienced. We had plenty of cold weather, wind, and snow.

The bees were confined from the middle of November until the last part of February. For over two months, the thermometer did not go above freezing, except once, for a few hours. We had a lot of twenty below zero weather, and one morning it was thirty below.

Most of our snow came in February. During that month some of the hives were covered with snow. However, the greater portion of our really cold weather was during the time when we had only ten or twelve

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The International Congress at Amsterdam

by Dr. J. N. Tennent



THE thirteenth International Beekeeping Congress was held at Amsterdam, from August 22 to 27, 1949.

Many factors contributed to the success of this Congress. It was organized by a strong and efficient committee consisting of Dr. Morgenthauer, representing "Les Congres Internationaux d'Apiculture," Mr. Illingworth, Director of the Apis Club, and Mr. L. R. J. ridder van Rappard, President of the Dutch Beekeepers' Association, together with a band of enthusiastic local helpers. The people of Amsterdam united, as usual, to make foreigners feel at home. The social entertainment of the visitors was not forgotten; a trip along the canals and round the harbor, a civic reception by the Burgomaster of Amsterdam, a dinner with many speeches, including one from the Dutch Minister of Agri-

culture and an outing to Arheim where the delegates united with the beekeepers of Holland in their annual "Beekeepers' Day," an occasion for social intercourse and lectures—on this occasion arrangements were also made for a visit to bees on the heather. Amsterdam, free from bomb damage, with its canals and picturesque old buildings, made a splendid setting for the Congress.

Representatives from other countries were not so numerous as at the last Congress, probably as a result of difficulties in travel and currency. Still there were over 200 delegates and many countries were represented, including Switzerland, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Finland, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Egypt, Italy, Turkey, Britain, Australia and America. America was represented by Mr. James Hambleton, Beltsville, Maryland, and Mr.

and Mrs. W. T. Kelley of Paducah, Kentucky.

Mdlle. Baldensperger, France, and her assistant, Dr. J. de Wilde, Holland, acted as interpreters and did their work very efficiently. The languages used were French, German and English and it was noteworthy that the language of the country in which the Congress was held was not used at all.

The following is a summary of the contributions of the various speakers; in due course the Congress Committee proposes to issue a detailed report.

Historical—

H. M. Fraser, England. "The Development of Beekeeping in England and the Low Countries during the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries."

(Please turn to page 497)



Mr. Illingworth, Director of the Apis Club.



Mdlle. Baldensperger, Nice, France who acted as an interpreter.



Dr. Morgenthauer, Berne, Switzerland, first secretary of the new world-wide organization "Apimondia."

A Promising Forage Crop

Wagner pea is a deep rooting, long-lived perennial which yields abundant forage on poor soils.

by Frank C. Pellett

THE history of the introduction of new forage crops offers little to encourage one who is looking for quick returns. It required more than a century to convince the American farmer that sweet clover could be turned to good account in crop rotation. Soybeans were brought to America in 1854 and required more than three quarters of a century of time and two world wars to establish them in the farm program. The average American who might risk his shirt in a poker game is ultraconservative when it comes to accepting a new crop.

The Wagner pea (*Lathyrus silvestris wagneri*), commonly called "flat pea," was brought to America nearly sixty years ago and is just now coming to be recognized as of value in this country. Nearly 100 years ago a German professor named William Wagner, who is said to have been the first professor of agriculture, was attracted to a wild pea which is common in the mountains of Europe. He was searching for a better forage crop which would also provide good bee pasture. This wild pea, by many called "vetchling" was a vigorous grower which he found in the Carpathian Mountains of Austria. It yielded an abundance of nectar but was not palatable to livestock.

Wagner devoted thirty or more years to the improvement of this pea in an effort to remove the objectionable features and promote interest in its cultivation. In 1888, Karl Wagner, brother of the professor, came to Beaver County, Pennsylvania, where he settled at Old

Economy. He brought with him ten pounds of seed with the sole right to sale in this country. Since the seed had a very hard coat it was often slow in germination and had to be scratched. This was very probably the first attempt of scarification of seeds. Prof. William Wagner developed a machine for this purpose which he called the "Ritz" machine.

Karl Wagner did arouse some interest in this country for a time. A few thousand plants were sent to Louisiana for planting on a levee. The plant would appear to be ideal for this purpose. Several experiment stations planted small plots and for a time manifested considerable enthusiasm. Interest soon declined and within a few years the plant was forgotten. A few small patches were planted in western Washington on land not particularly well adapted for other crops and these were permitted to remain until now there are

plots known to be from forty to fifty years old.

Wagner pea in the test garden.

Our interest in the plant was aroused by the enthusiastic articles which appeared in the bee magazines in 1894. When reading over these old magazines we decided that here was something needed for the test garden. We did not learn of the Washington plantings until long after and spent months in a vain attempt to find seed in this country. Finally seed was secured from Germany through a correspondent, Konrad Halle, who sent enough for a test in our garden. It was planted in April 1939 and has been under observation since that time. After working with it through ten summers we are convinced that here is something whose virtues have too long been overlooked.

The plant starts slowly and makes



When planted too thick Wagner pea offers scant bloom.

but little growth above ground the first season. The second summer the vines extend to three or four feet in length but it is only during the third season that they become fully established and make an enormous growth. We made the mistake of planting the seed entirely too thick. Plants spaced two or three feet apart each way is sufficient to make a dense mass of tangled growth about four feet in depth. Nothing that we have tried will provide so much forage from a given area.

The plant roots very deeply and shows little effect of long continued dry weather. Victor Wagner, nephew of the originator, once wrote me that as a boy he tried to dig out a plant. He gave up at 12 feet under ground but found the roots at that depth about half the size they were at the surface. His uncle estimated that they must go down as far as 35 or more feet.

Wagner pea is not suited for use in a rotation of crops because of its slow start. Where a long-time pasture or forage crop is wanted it would seem to be one of the best because of its permanence when once established. For the North it should serve about the same purpose as kudzu does in the South. To stop erosion and hold steep hillsides, it should be given extensive trial.

Although our plots were given careful attention to avoid weeds, a report from northeastern Iowa indicates that the plant can be neglected and still make a stand.

In the April, 1946, *Beekeepers Magazine*, appeared an article on Wagner pea by Arthur W. Bennett, of Waterloo, Iowa, from which we quote:

"One day we took a horse and an old walking plow and went down to the highest piece of ground we could find, where we plowed a little patch some 30 by 15 feet. We cleared the sod off with a garden rake, and planted the Wagner pea seed in rows. Then fencing the plot we left it to see what would happen.

"Through a slight misunderstanding each thought the other was to do the 'weeding.' When we compared notes and found neither had used the hoe, we went immediately to check on the situation. Here, three months after planting, we found the most beautiful patch of weeds that ever had a fence around it.

"Upon close examination, we found a few plants we thought 'might be' what we were looking for. I was not sure as I had only seen pictures of the plant.

"The following June we again took time out to walk over into the woods and check on our plot. Another good crop of weeds had taken over, but at one end we discovered a long jointed green plant that resembled pea. We counted about two dozen of them, all at one end but none at the other.

"The following summer these plants had moved down the patch about half way, and had smothered out the weeds at the end where the plants had started the year before.

"By the next mid-summer the plants had reached the opposite end of the plot. The entanglement of vines became more dense, and as it did, it completely overcame all weeds except a few wild hemp plants that would get an early start and

keep above the mass to reach the sunlight.

"The plants have made wonderful growth and prove winter hardy here in northeast Iowa. We do know that it over-ran all the original plowed area, choked back the weeds, but did not run into the June grass. I believe that Wagner pea has a definite place in agriculture, as it grows well here and does a good job of keeping down most weeds."

When planted closely the plant offers scant bloom but when the plants are not crowded they bloom freely and set an abundance of seed. Apparently the nectar yield is generous and the bees visit the flowers eagerly and seem to get a load from only a few blossoms. Reports from Washington beekeepers within reach of small fields indicate a good harvest of honey from this source.

Wagner pea in the West

Maynard S. Grunder, agronomist, and Newell D. Dickson, grazing specialist at Western Washington Experiment Station, have issued encouraging reports of this plant for that region. They mention the following advantages:

First, is its long life, with stands known to be 40 or more years old.

Second, the ability of the flat pea to compete with native vegetation because of its tolerance of shade, its climbing ability and its long life.

Third, its remarkable ability to retain its leaves even after the seeds have matured.

Fourth, the unusually high protein content, 20 to 30 per cent in dry hay which is much higher than that of alfalfa.

They mention also the disadvantages of seed with a hard coat impervious to water which delays germination, the slow growth of the young plants which require so long to become established, and the poisonous tendencies of immature foliage at times. No ill effects have been noted in the forage in advanced stages of maturity.

From England come reports that the original plants from which Wagner made his selections grow wild in many parts of Britain and that the Wagner pea is grown experimentally there with much promise. F. N. Howes, author of "Plants and Beekeeping," says that it is obviously a good nectar yielder and is most attractive to the bees.

Perhaps after so many years (Wagner first planted it in 1862), the Wagner pea is about to find a place in agriculture. If so, the beekeepers can expect to profit with less uncertainty than is the case with such short-lived plants as sweet clover.



Wagner pea makes a dense and heavy stand three or four feet deep when well established.



The White Fall Aster

by D. E. Weilacher

been blamed for heavy winter loss of bees, but many of my colonies winter on aster honey alone with no ill effects.

White aster honey granulates rapidly if not thoroughly ripened, but it will keep either in the comb or extracted for a year or more when properly ripened and not exposed to freezing temperatures. It has a distinctive flavor and aroma and is preferred by both local and out of state customers.

Here in northwestern Pennsylvania near Kane, there is a vast acreage of uncultivated semimountainous country set aside as national forest and state game land. Much of this area has been cut and burned over and has grown up with a dense stand of white asters which resembles fields of buckwheat when in full bloom. It is in such areas as this that white fall asters, particularly those known locally as the tall white and the low growing, bushy "frost aster," are of major importance to the beekeepers. If it were not for these dependable yielders, beekeeping would be unprofitable. Even in cultivated areas, aster and goldenrod are often the source of much surplus honey.

The tall white aster is a vigorous grower and competes with any weed. It does well in partial shade and has a thrifty, though rather shallow, root system that does not freeze easily and can be divided readily in the spring. When in bloom, it stands from waist to shoulder high and plants taller

than the average man are common. Due to its branching nature the flower heads are often from eight inches to a foot in diameter and bloom from six to eight weeks. Nectar does not yield freely until the first flowers have been open about a week, but once the flow starts, excessive rain and heavy frost are the only conditions that curtail it to any extent.

Cool nights, even to light frost, followed by bright, sunny days, seem to be conducive to a heavy flow from white aster, but when there is sufficient moisture in the soil it yields well during hot humid weather. My bees work asters from early morning until late evening and will not work any other flowers while they are in bloom. The tall white aster starts to bloom here about August 15 and is usually in full bloom by mid-September. Goldenrod is in bloom by this time, but except for pollen gatherers the bees pay little attention to it as long as asters are in bloom. Goldenrod will withstand lower temperatures than the aster, therefore the crop usually tapers off with small amounts of goldenrod honey in some sections.

The low growing, bushy, white frost aster is more adapted to road and railroad right of ways, fence rows, and uncultivated fields. While generally it is not of major importance as a yielder of surplus honey here, it is a boon to colonies caught short on supplies, as it continues to bloom three to four weeks after all other honey plants are

WILD asters in general, particularly the white fall varieties, deserve more credit and attention than they get from many beekeepers, as they are one of the most dependable yielders of surplus fall honey. White fall aster is prevalent in the southern states, and in the northeastern states at least as far north as middle New England. Over a ten-year period my bees have consistently produced more than average crops of choice honey from this source alone.

Beekeeping is a side line with me—my 35 to 40 colony apiary is located within two hundred feet of my house. This location is more than ten miles from any cultivated area. I produce a fancy grade of strictly wild flower honey, both comb and extracted.

Contrary to some reports, I find white aster honey to be light in color, ranging from light amber to white. White aster honey has sometimes



Colony at right produced 265 pounds of extracted honey in six weeks. September and early October, 1946.



Excessive browsing by large herds of deer has seriously damaged many sources of pollen and nectar. Picture taken from apiary.

frozen. Strong colonies sometimes store some surplus honey from this source.

Unfortunately, much good honey goes unharvested in these large aster and goldenrod areas. These same locations will support only a comparatively small number of colonies during the spring and summer months. This is also what is known as the Pennsylvania big game section and heavy winter browsing by large herds of deer has seriously damaged many sources of early pollen and nectar. Outapiaries and even back lot apiaries have to be constantly guarded against raids by numerous black bears.

The difficulty of coping with the large game problem is partly compensated for by the influx of several thousand hunters during the big game season, who buy all the honey remaining in the producers' hands at this time. Incidentally, this is good advertising.

Rarely do my bees produce any surplus honey in the spring or summer. One of the first and most

important lessons the successful beekeeper in this section must learn is to leave plenty of stores with each colony in the fall. Even then, due to adverse springs like 1945 and 1946, it may be necessary to feed the colonies in July to carry them over until the white aster flow starts.

The advantage of a heavy fall honeyflow is quite obvious. There is ample time and opportunity before the flow to build up weak overwintered colonies, June swarms, and late packages into units that will produce a profitable surplus. The beekeeper has plenty of time to estimate his needs, secure supplies, and in general be prepared for the big rush. There is rarely any need for fall feeding, and late brood rearing produces many young bees for the winter clusters.

The possibility that some colonies may have passed their peak of producing strength, and the probability of heavy late swarming present problems in apiary management some seasons.

Populous colonies will produce 50

pounds of honey in ten days when run for extracted honey, or finish a ten-frame super of 28 sections every week at the peak of the aster flow here. Large late swarms, when hived on full sheets of foundation, will often pack a ten-frame hive and one shallow super with aster honey. In August 1946, just as the fall flow was starting, we had two weeks of unseasonably cold, cloudy weather. Bees were confined to their hives the greater part of every day and when favorable weather finally arrived more than half of my 35 colonies were down to their last frame of honey. During the next six weeks these same bees produced 3,000 pounds of surplus aster honey. Food chambers were packed and brood chambers heavier than average.

Even in years when the white aster flow has been cut off at its peak by adverse weather, my bees have given me a reasonable profit. Fortunate indeed is the beekeeper who has a good white fall aster location.

Pennsylvania.

FOR OUR 1950 COVERS

**Something new
will be added!**

The American Bee Journal announces a new
COVER CONTEST beginning January, 1950.

Here's a chance for every beekeeper who owns a camera (and most of us do) to see his work on the cover of ABJ sometime during the coming year. Beekeeping offers a rich field for the photographer—how many times while examining your colonies or watching your bees have you said, "Wish I had a picture of that!" Next time you visit your bee yard, take your camera along. You don't need to be a professional photographer and you may be surprised by the results. Or if you have already taken some good shots, dig them out of that drawer or album and send them in. Any pictures pertaining to bees, beekeeping, honey plants, locations, methods, honey, wax, etc. will be eligible.

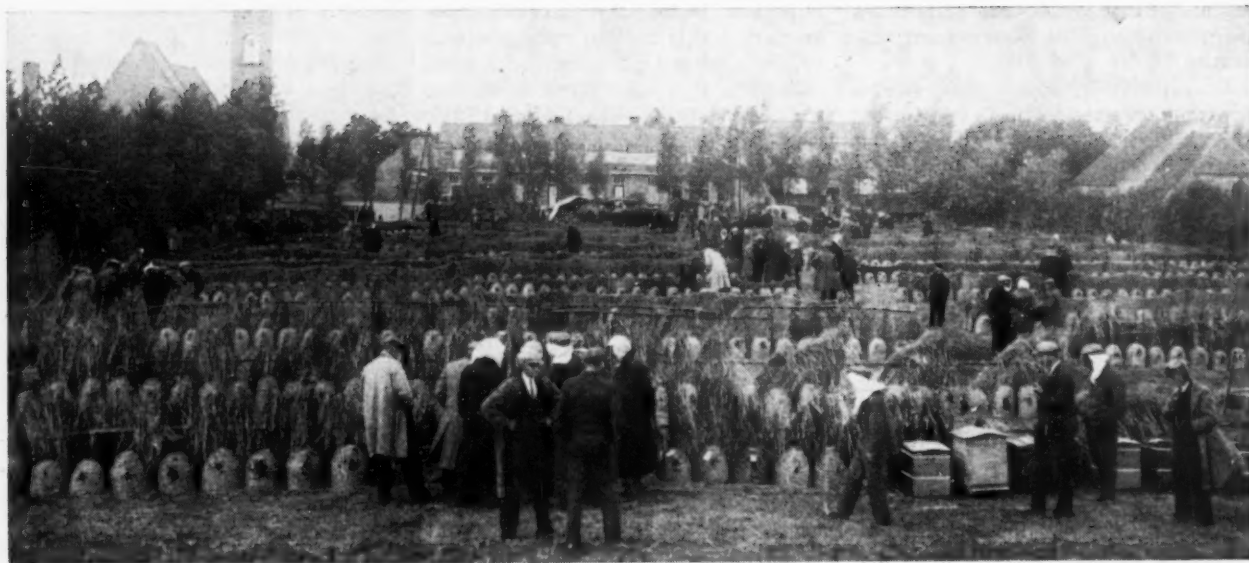
Each month, **two pictures** will be chosen for the awards—one for the cover, and one for the full page picture inside the Journal. Send yours to us as soon as possible, and if you can, send along a picture of yourself and something about the circumstances under which the picture was taken. Don't wait from month to month to send in your entry—we would like to have it right away.

The prizes will be \$10.00 for the cover picture and \$5.00 for the inside page.

HERE ARE THE RULES—

1. Not more than two photographs by the same person will be used.
2. Photographs will become the property of the American Bee Journal and cannot be returned. Any pictures we use on other pages of the Journal will be paid for at regular rates.
3. Awards will be made following publication of the winning pictures.

**Send your pictures to Cover Contest
Editor, American Bee Journal,
Hamilton, Illinois**



The Annual Bee Market at Veenendaal (Province of Gelderland)

Beekeeping in Holland— Old and Modern

by Dr. J. de Wilde

Curator of Comparative Physiology,
University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Holland

TO anyone who visits the sandy regions of our country, Brenthe and Gelderland, the old straw-hive bee culture is still one of the most interesting things to see. In these regions the straw hive has been used since the 13th century, and perhaps earlier. Although changes have taken place in details of hives and tools, straw-hive culture has until recent times remained very much the same. Briefly it consists of the following periods:

1. Early and frequent swarming to produce a great number of active colonies.

2. Development of these colonies during the blossoming of lime trees, white clover, and Erica heather to prepare them for the main honey flow. For this purpose the colonies are often brought to the clay soils.

3. The main honeyflow period in July and August from buckwheat,

centaurea, Erica heather and Calluna heather.

4. The harvest in September—in former days the crop was harvested simply by killing the heaviest colonies with sulfur dioxide vapor. Now they are mostly anaesthetized with fumes of burning saltpeter. After recovery from the fumes the bees are used to strengthen stocks to be wintered.

5. Preparing a good number of colonies for winter. To give an idea, 33 pounds is considered a good weight for hive plus colony plus food.

After a successful winter the surplus colonies are sold on the bee markets which still are held in April and May, mostly once a year in each village or town. The photograph shows one of these typical, old-fashioned bee markets that happily survived the war. To American eyes such a market would be quite an interesting sight. Many hundreds, sometimes thousands of

hives are transported overnight to the market place, often for distances of 30 miles or more. Formerly transport was mostly on horse carts of characteristic shape but at present the truck has for the most part taken over their task.

The hives are prepared for moving in a very typical way. A square piece of porous cloth is placed under the hive and nails pierced through the corners, twisted, and stuck into the side of the hive. The cloth can be seen in the picture on opposite page. The entrances are stuffed with grass.

Early in the morning the market place is set with neat rows of colonies and soon the air is filled with the gay sounds of buyers and owners, and of the typical hand clapping which accompanies the bargaining.

One might easily think that in a short time straw-hiving methods will be only of historical value. But whoever has seen straw-hived colonies developing in the springtime will understand that this type of hive

•
Bargains are made on typical
old-style Gelderland beehives.
•



will always maintain a certain, though moderate, position in our country. One of the reasons is the shape of this hive which fits so wonderfully well to the ellipsoidal brood nest, causing a minimum loss of heat and an economical storage of food. Availability and low cost are other important factors. These factors are of great importance in a country like ours where the temperature in April averages 49°F. and in May, when swarming usually begins, 57°F.; where August is the most rainy month of the year and, what is still more important, where the weather is so changeable that in some years beekeepers can hardly keep their colonies alive.

Professional beekeeping is rare in Holland and those who earn a living only from the honey, wax, and bees they produce and sell are still more rare if they exist at all. Nevertheless beekeeping is still highly regarded in the Netherlands, and bees are considered indispensable for pollination in fruit and seed culture. Fruit growers often pay up to three dollars for each colony placed in their orchards in April, and their increasing interest in placing colonies proves that results have not been disappointing. Incidentally, our fruit area has more than doubled in the last twenty years.

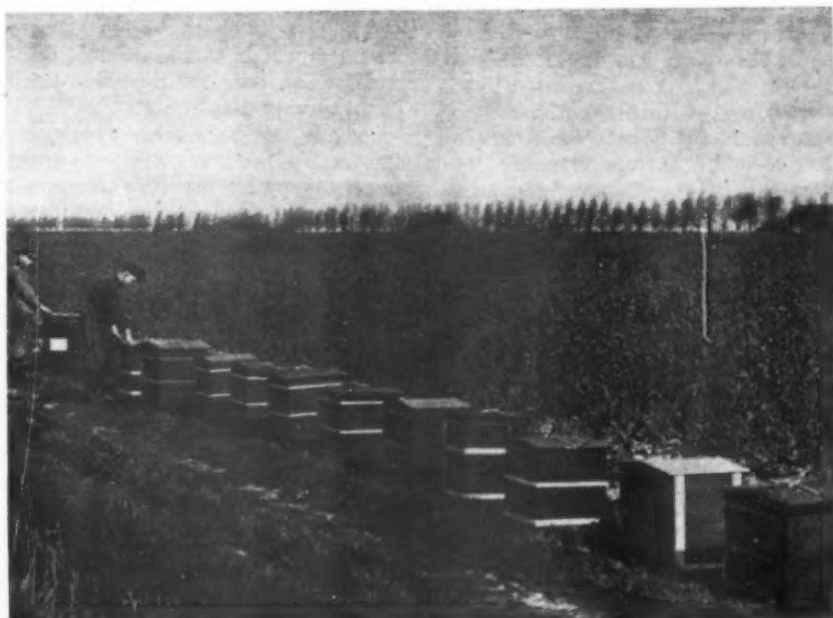
Of course, by far, most of the Dutch apiaries consist partly or totally of wooden hives. The majority are of the Simplex type. This hive has been developed from the British W. B. C. hive and improved accord-

ing to our special conditions, especially as regards moving. Only by frequent migration, often three or four times a year, can beekeeping be made profitable in Holland.

Of the 3,000 square miles of uncultivated land that are still left to us, a considerable part is covered with heather, but because of both climatological and soil factors, heather has become a most unreliable plant for honey production. As a consequence, Dutch beekeepers now largely depend upon agricultural crops, a situation well known to

many American beekeepers. We lack only crops like alfalfa that have a long flowering period. Alfalfa is not generally grown and its value as a honey plant in our climate is doubted.

Through all the above named factors the old straw-hive bee culture is rapidly losing its importance. But whatever may be left of it in the future a well-made straw hive with a primary swarm in June will, for Dutch beekeepers, always remain the symbol of industrious life and peaceful collaboration.



Modern hives on Brassica (oil) seed in one of the polders near Amsterdam. (Photographs copyright Het Vrije Volk, Amsterdam)

Washington Activities to Date

PREVIOUSLY we have reported that HR-29, which provides for price support for honey and tung nuts at 90 per cent of parity using a base period, January 1936 to December 1940, passed the House August 2, 1949. It then was read before the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, and then referred to the Anderson Subcommittee which has been considering the general farm price-support program.

On August 12, the Subcommittee reported to the entire Committee on Agriculture and Forestry a bill, later to be designated as S-2522, which provided flexible price support for the six basic commodities plus shorn wool, mohair, Irish potatoes, tung nuts, milk and butter fats, **but not honey**.

We are reliably informed that in full Committee, the question of adding honey was discussed and the matter appeared to have favorable support. Senators Lucas, Holland, Gillette, and Young openly favored this, some were noncommittal, and only Senator Anderson openly opposed including honey. Controversies sprang up between members of the Committee on major phases of this legislation and the inclusion of honey was not taken up in executive sessions by the Committee.

Inasmuch as this was "must" legislation, President Truman called leaders of the Committee to the White House on Tuesday, August 30. By 4 P. M. his group returned to the Senate and that night reported to the floor of the Senate the Anderson Bill, S-2522. It was reported that members of the Committee agreed that the important thing was to get this legislation out of Committee, and that commodities not included would have to take their chance through amendments on the floor of the Senate.

Thus, although Senator Young of North Dakota was prepared to attempt to amend the Bill in Committee to include honey, and other Senators had pledged their support, honey was not added in the press of circumstances.

We are further informed that the Senate Committee will give consideration to HR-29. There are some who think that this might be a better move than trying to amend S-2522 on

the floor since many other commodities also will be making a strong effort to be included. Nevertheless, a strong attempt will be made to amend S-2522 to include honey, and this move is being led by Senator Young of North Dakota, Senator Thye of Minnesota, and Senator Gillette of Iowa. It is hoped that the amendment will receive strong and favorable support.

As this being written, the Senate has taken up debate on Reciprocal Trade legislation, and it is thought that the farm bill will not come up before late September.

Failing to include honey in S-2522 or in receiving favorable action on HR-29, a final effort will be made in conference between the House and the Senate where the final farm bill will be written. Congressman Andresen of Minnesota, a member of this conference, will make every effort to include honey at this time. The fact that the House passed HR-29 for price support for honey and tung nuts, the action of the Senate Committee in including tung nuts **but not honey** in S-2522, and a showing of strong support for honey in the Senate, could well influence the inclusion of honey in the general farm bill at that time.

At this time, no one can predict what will occur. It may be that the answer will be known by the time this comes to the attention of readers. Every effort is being made to secure price support in this session of Congress which may be in session until Thanksgiving Day.

Because the Secretary of Agriculture has discretionary power to grant us price support, we have continued to work hard to convince him and the Department of Agriculture that price support is vital to maintaining a prosperous beekeeping industry and thus providing for adequate numbers of pollinating insects necessary to the production of legume seeds, fruits, and vegetables.

During September, a letter was received from Mr. E. J. Overby, Assistant to the Secretary, who through an overall committee of 20 top officials had undertaken to clarify the attitude of the Department relative to the importance of honey and honey bees to our agricultural economy, stating that his committee "did ask the Production and Market-

ing Administration to consider a price support program for honey."

However, on August 12, Mr. Ralph Trigg, Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration, wrote that it seemed inadvisable for the Department to assume the obligation of a price support program for honey at this time.

We cannot explain why the request of a committee of 20 high officials did not receive favorable action. Although discouraged by this, a letter immediately went back to Mr. Trigg again stressing the plight of the industry, the importance of honey bees through pollination to soil conservation and the Government's program to retire 28 million acres of cash-crop lands to grasses and legumes, and requesting that the Department reconsider its decision.

On August 30 representatives of the industry were invited to Washington to confer with officials of the Fruit and Vegetable Branch, P.M.A., concerning the possibility of a subsidy program for honey. It became apparent that officials would consider with favor a proposal for a subsidy program consisting of upwards to 5 million pounds of honey for export, and upwards to 15 million pounds of honey for diversion to new uses outside normal channels of trade. This program would continue for a period of 4 or 5 years to take care of our surplus crop. It was thought possible that the program could assure the producer a price for honey at somewhere near the current school lunch purchase levels. In such a program, the Government does not buy a pound of honey but subsidizes sales for export and for diversion programs by paying part of the cost of the honey.

Mr. R. B. Willson, chairman of the Honey Utilization Committee of the Federation, which also includes Woodrow Miller, Hans Schumacher, Dr. E. J. Dyce, Ed. Burleson, and W. A. Stephen, are contacting foreign outlets and industrial sources to provide information for the preparation of a proposal for a subsidy program. Mr. Marvin Webster, New York, also is helping in this. It is planned to submit such a proposal to officials of the Fruit and Vegetable Branch during September.

It is thought that such a program (Please turn to page 496)

There's Gold in Them Thar Hives!

by C. B. Waldron

AS a beekeeper my years are an infants; but as a honey user—yes, one of those before-and-after-the war honey consumers, my whiskers are hoary. Therefore I claim the right to say in these pages that the sales-and-price lamentations of the honey producers strike me as comic.

Of course everyone should sympathize with the beekeeper who works hard, overtime hours to put out a fine product, and then is offered a pittance for it. But why waste sympathy on ignorance or apathy? If there is anything funnier than a man with pure gold to sell, and unable to get a fair price for it, please, though I'm not from Missouri, show me!

For honey is gold, nutritionally speaking, pediatrically speaking, medically speaking. It is a peerless sweet. Honey is literally heart-balm. Newspapers and magazines periodically stress the increasing mortality from cardiac diseases. How many beekeepers know that honey is of proved value in treating certain heart conditions? How many doctors know it? How many consumers with middle-aged and old parents and kinfolk know it? Only last week I sold honey to a truck driver just because I happened to mention this virtue of honey.

You know the value of honey, and I know it. But does the consumer know it? In a loud yell sales and prices answer: No!

Can you imagine the blaze of advertising publicity the sugar or candy or baking industries would kindle if they found a sweet as digestible as honey, as harmless to teeth and bones, as beneficial to children and old folks? What would the baby-food people do with the facts available on the virtues of honey in baby raising? Would they be content to rest with an A.M.A. seal of approval? Or would they set out to blast the ears of every radio listener in the U. S. and Canada? What would the breakfast food people do if they developed a cereal which coaches could feed their athletes before and after the most grueling contests? What would drug manu-

facturers do if—but why go on?

I am no advertising expert; but I know enough about honey to say that its effective exploitation, in the sense of efficiently publicizing it to the mutual benefit of consumer and producer, would be peaches and cream to any advertising man worth his hand-painted tie. He could afford to be honestly enthusiastic about it, for honey is a natural. It has everything—but what have its beekeepers got? Speak for yourself, John!

Our small apiary is on a national highway close to one of the wealthiest suburban areas in the U. S. A modest honey sign has always sold out the crop. But I regret to say that most of our honey is sold at too high a price. True, it is mostly sold to people accustomed to luxury prices; even during the depression the comb honey here never went below 35 cents per section. We get 50 cents now, and some producers and retailers in this county charge 55 and 65 cents. Honey should not cost so much as to put it into the luxury class. But if refined white sugar sells for 8 or 9 cents per pound,

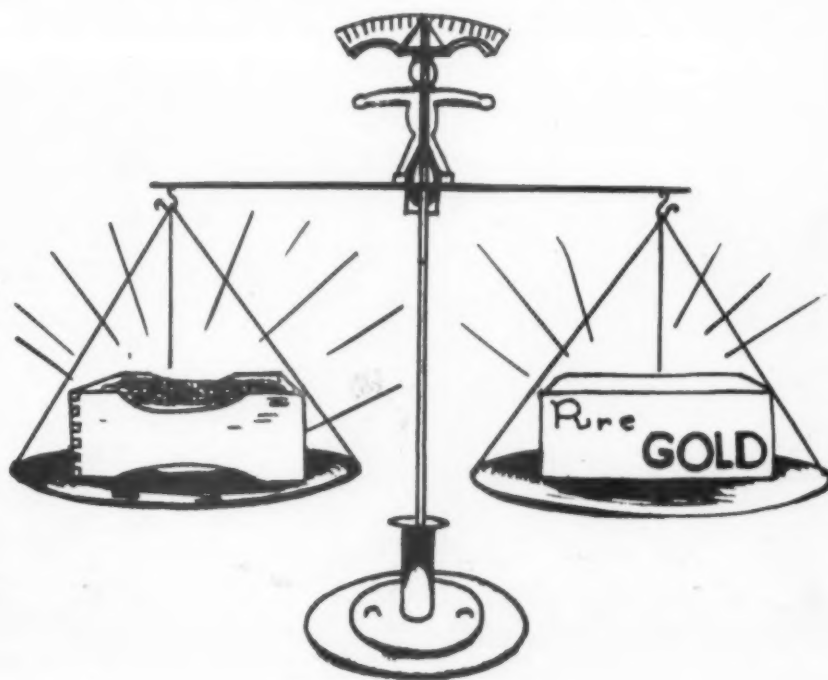
honey is certainly worth more than 12 cents.

The American Honey Institute puts out beautiful material which goes as far as it can—but how far is that on its budget? Our timid dip into advertising in Louisville reminds me of the bathing belle with one coy toe in the water. What are we doing? Finding out if the ocean is wet?

Labor is organized; bankers are organized; teachers, actors, plumbers, morticians and florists are organized. Gosh, even bees are organized! If beekeepers can't organize enough to do a bang-up advertising job on a national scale, they deserve to get stung—and that sort of sting lasts longer than the bee's variety.

If every large apiarist kicked in with the proceeds of one hive out of every hundred, if every packer taxed himself some fractional sum per hundred pounds, if every small beekeeper contributed the proceeds of one super from each 10 or 25 hives, with others of the beekeeping industry doing their part, wouldn't we be able to advertise as we should? How many local beekeepers' associations would be willing to canvass members and non-members I don't know. But speaking of, not for, the one I belong to, I dare say its officers and members are intelligent and far-seeing enough to know which side their bread is honeyed on.

Why bury our bees' gold in a Fort Knox of producers' apathy and consumers' ignorance? You tell me!
— Pennsylvania.





First winner at the Illinois State Fair, Lawrence Peterson, Kewanee. The Illinois Honey Exhibits are among the finest in the country.



Second winner at the Illinois State Fair, Hoyt Taylor, Pleasant Plains. The background views in these two exhibits are unusually attractive. (Mrs. Taylor in foreground).



An old skeppist in England. Picture from L. A. Harcourt, King's Lynn. There are still many of these old-time beekeepers in England and Europe.

Jay Smith's New Queen Book

Jay Smith is an entertaining writer with the right shade of humor to make his material interesting. His new book, "Better Queens," represents thirty-six years of queen rearing. His first book, "Queen Rearing Simplified," was published in 1923, and he has written other articles and pamphlets. This volume is cloth bound, 100 pages and is priced at \$4.00. Copies may be obtained from the author at Fort Myers, Florida, or from this office at the price above, postpaid.

Smith likes the Alley method of starting queen cells with eggs laid on natural comb, but prefers to use new comb rather than the tough, older comb recommended by Alley. Starting from the egg, the embryo queens get more food than they would by starting with grafted larvae, he insists. The maximum of food from egg to finished cell is one of the requisites for the biggest, finest cells and the plumpest and best matured queens. As he says, "A larva grows in size in a week in proportion to the growth of a calf in a year. If we keep food from larva for twenty minutes it would be equivalent to keeping it from a calf for a week."

Although he suggests mating hives consisting of three frames measuring 3x5 inches and stocked with $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of bees, he uses a hive with five standard frames and at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of bees, as there is "more absconding in Florida." He believes that older bees are better than young ones for nurse bees. His special queen cage described in the February, 1948 issue of "Southern Beekeeping" is still his choice.

Prevention for Mold

When you have finished putting foundation in the frames, oil the top bars with a mixture of boiled linseed oil and beeswax. Mix in a container and brush on while hot. Mold will never tackle the wood and bees are much less inclined to build brace combs between supers. Once you try it you will never again put out new comb without treating the wood this way.

Clemens E. Schmidt,
South Australia.

Honey for Overseas Program for CROP

The Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) which is the largest of all food relief programs, collects food commodities on a community-wide basis and sends them overseas to be distributed by established church relief agencies. Over 2,392 carloads were shipped last year, of which more than 393 came from Iowans alone. Iowa CROP sent out three carloads of honey last year, one from Floyd County and two from Kossuth County.

Honey is a very special treat to hungry persons, long used to doing without sweets. We Americans take sweets for granted and often fail to realize that there are myriads of children who have never eaten them. Honey is more than a mere treat—it supplies a much-needed energy food to inadequately nourished people.

Iowa CROP will have its 1949 campaign from November 6 to 13, under the direction of Kirk Fox of the Meredith Publishing Company, state chairman, and Albert W. Farmer, state director. The gift of the bee man will be especially valued. Give honey to CROP for those who need it most.

Tupelo Honey Growers Get Recognition

In the September 3 issue of the Saturday Evening Post appears a two and one-half page, colored, illustrated article entitled, "They All Go Crazy in Tupelo Time." The article does credit to the magazine and portrays quite accurately the operations of J. A. Whitfield and L. L. Lanier of the Wewahitchka section.

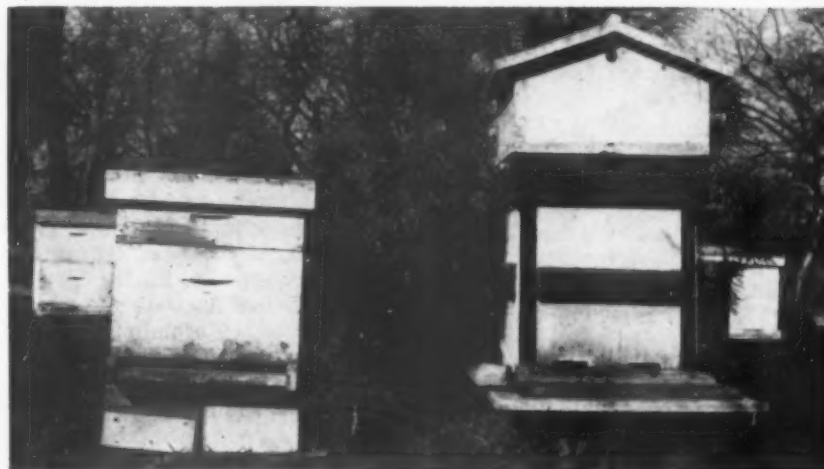
Probably most of our readers are acquainted with the tupelo section. Most bees are on scaffolding along the borders of the Apalachicola and other rivers, and their care and the harvesting of the honey is done with the aid of motor boats. Tupelo honey seldom granulates on account of its high content of levulose and low content of dextrose sugars.



(Left to right) Bob Lang, Edward Harms, Maurice Keil, Ted Dunmire, Harold Gartner and Carl Kruger of Kossuth County, Iowa, who loaded this car for Iowa CROP. Doyle Reaser missed the picture. (Photo by Al Missal).



A field of white boneset from S. H. Burton, Washington, Indiana. Valuable source of winter stores and often of surplus. We think the taste is fair but smarty.



Comparison of an old Centennial hive, in use since 1876, with a Langstroth hive, each with comb honey super. For twenty-five years the Centennial has never failed to come through winter in good condition. Its sides are glass set in grooved wood, with removable outside white pine panels. The comb-honey super holds 38 sections. Empty, it weighs about 65 pounds! (Charlotte B. Waldron).

Herman Rauchfuss ladeling out bees for queen rearing.



Herman Rauchfuss--1863-1947

by Kent Pellett

IT is not surprising that beekeepers founded one of the country's successful early cooperatives, the Colorado Honey Producers' Association, as bees are the perfect example of what can be accomplished by cooperation.

Leading spirits in the C. H. P. A. in the days when it was a great force in the Rocky Mountain beekeeping industry were the Rauchfuss brothers Frank and Herman. The two were among the founders of the Association in 1899. Frank served as its secretary-manager until his death 32 years later.

A popular writer who visited Herman Rauchfuss about 15 years ago said he got a living from his bees and also a philosophy.

"Men ought to be as smart as insects," Herman told him, "especially men who sell honey for a living. There we were, each trying to steal the other fellow's customers—working alone for our own selfish interests like the lowest form of insects.

"When you talk about cooperation too many people . . . don't know what the word means. They ought to take a lesson from a colony of

bees. They live and prosper because nature has taught every one to work for the general welfare."

The Rauchfuss brothers taught Colorado beekeepers to work for the general welfare through the Colorado Honey Producers' Association. They put the cooperative philosophy to a severe and practical test and it worked—for many years.

Skeptical members became sold on the Association when it established a national reputation for Colorado honey.

Before the Association was organized every beekeeper had his own ideas of grading and packing comb honey, and the market was often chaotic. C. H. P. A. set up uniform grading rules. By having a large stock on hand it could supply the trade with honey of uniform quality. The Association could use its funds to pick up distress lots of honey to prevent them being dumped on the market at ruinous prices. This way it was able to control the price.

Says D. W. Spangler: "I have often said that this Association saved for the beekeepers of Colorado and

Wyoming especially the sum of a half million dollars."

The Association had members in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and California.

The Rauchfusses were symbols of integrity. At its height C. H. P. A. was as solid as a bank. Members left money on deposit and withdrew it at will.

A combination of depression and changing methods of transportation and beekeeping, especially the drift away from comb honey production for which Colorado beekeepers were famous, and perhaps the retirement of the elder Rauchfusses, led to the death of the cooperative in 1941.

Herman Rauchfuss would have been very well known without C. H. P. A. For a time he was Colorado's largest beekeeper. He kept as many as 3,000 colonies. He was probably the leading exponent of the system of comb honey production in eight-frame, two-story hives common in the state.

He annually produced carlots of alfalfa honey within the city limits of Denver. His biggest year was probably 1915 when he sold seven

carlots of comb and two of extracted honey.

The big hive devotees received a jolt when they visited the region. They found the Colorado men carrying on big operations with eight-frame hives and objecting to anything larger.

The Rauchfuss name is still very much alive in mountain state beekeeping. Herman's sons, Gene and Herman, Jr., operate apiaries and bottle honey under the name of The Rauchfuss Apiaries of Worland and Powell, Wyoming, and lately his grandsons have joined them. Their system is the same that Herman used. Eight-frame hives are still fairly common in Colorado though some beekeepers are changing to ten.

Herman introduced Caucasian bees into the United States and did more than any other man to popularize them. He kept Caucasians almost exclusively. He imported his first Caucasian queens—two of them—into the U. S. in 1897. Five years later Dr. Frank Benton, U. S. Department of Agriculture apiculturist, visited the Rauchfuss apiaries and took some queens with him to Washington. They greatly excited his interest and he, himself, made a trip into the high altitudes of the Caucasian Mountains to find a pure strain of these bees. He brought back queens of uniform dark gray color, and sent some of them to Rauchfuss. Rauchfuss later imported queens from Georgia (Russia). The Rauchfuss strain of Caucasians came

from the descendants of these three importations.

He sold most of his colonies to his sons in 1922. But he kept about 400 colonies, and he and his daughter Rosabelle went into queen rearing. They kept on with it until Herman's eyesight failed him in 1940.

In 1932 the University of Wyoming published results of comparative tests of Caucasians and Italians at Laramie. Over a five-year period the Caucasians produced at least 75 per cent more honey than the Italians. The Caucasians used in the tests were mostly of the Rauchfuss strain.

Herman Rauchfuss was born in Raitzsch, Germany in 1862. His father had 75 colonies of bees and Herman grew up with them.

At 19 he followed his brother Frank and an uncle to the United States. He was mechanical and inventive, and worked as a maker of surgical instruments for six years. Then he took a job as a boiler fireman in a laboratory at Denver.

Within a year he invented an oil burner that cut by half the amount of fuel needed to heat the boiler, and eliminated smoke. He was made superintendent of the plant.

Then came a fire. Herman put it out after ordering all men from the building. But he was so badly poisoned by nitric acid fumes that his boss would not let him return to the laboratory, instead finding him a job in a real estate office.

Herman knew this was just a way of putting him on a pension. He stayed in the office just long enough to find a plot of land at the edge of Denver, then began keeping bees full time. "The wisest move I ever made," he said.

His brother Frank followed him to Denver.

Rauchfuss found an outlet in the bee yard for his mechanical bent. He invented a number of gadgets used in the business. D. W. Spangler mentions his section press that was an improvement over the one then in use, and two different queen cages.

He also invented a foundation cutting box, scraping knives, hive tools, a separator cleaner, solar wax extractor, capping melter and an uncapping knife.

C. L. Corkins visited the Rauchfuss home in Englewood in 1931 and found an air of old world hospitality about it. (Mrs. Rauchfuss also came from abroad, from Switzerland.)

Corkins wrote of him at the time: "He wants all who can to profit by his experience yet he is almost inexcusably modest and feels that his contributions are unworthy. He feels also that he is not able to clearly express himself in writing, yet one may at any time have the most enjoyable experience with him, listening to his talk day in and day out, night in and night out with a clear and well organized mind, in such forceful English that many a college student would be put to shame and envy."



Mr. and Mrs. Herman Rauchfuss at home in Denver.



Rauchfuss was an ingenious inventor of useful equipment.

American Honey Institute

With a big, comforting cigar, a weary groan, and a firm grasp on the evening newspaper, Mr. Beeman lowers himself into the family easy chair for a twilight bout with the news.

But newspapers don't lend themselves to easy, relaxing reading nowadays. On the contrary, the going is rather rough. Blaring headlines that dig their way into one's conscience have only gloomy news to tell. Murders, robberies, world monetary upsets, boundary infringements, friction, unrest . . .

To Mr. Average American, the whole darn business looks like a mess. After five minutes with the front page, you probably throw aside the paper, or escape to the comic page.

Disturbing as may be the page of a tabloid, the more shrewd will take the time to dig down under the blurring headlines to figure out exactly what the whole thing means. And the farther he digs, the better he'll feel!

For life in these United States is getting back to normal again. The flag pole sitters, English Channel swimmers, and baseball fanatics will testify to that.

We at the Institute have our own reasons for believing that the ship of state is keeping an even keel. We have our own reasons for being optimistic.

We look under the awning of present day hurly-burly and note what the little man—you and I—is doing. And the view from our window is pretty good!

America's famed "little man" is doing just what you, the beekeeper, are doing; he is working hard, very hard. He reads his evening paper with the same wariness as the rest of his clan. He comes home at night tired but glad that he has a home to come to. His pay check is lower than it was during the war, but not as flat as before.

And he lives, works, and plays with the wonderful knowledge that being a "little man" in America makes him one of the most important people in the country.

How do we know this? The antennae of the Institute feel out toward all corners of the nation. Were we to stick a bright-colored pin for

Commercial State Bank Building, Madison 3, Wisconsin

every beekeeper that we deal with in a tremendous map of the United States, we could show you a graphic chart of what we mean. But the bulk of such a map makes it an impossibility.

Suffice it to say that the Institute has its finger on the pulse of the beekeeping industry. Through these contacts we have come to know you, the beekeeper—to know you quite well.

Through your letters, orders, telegrams, you convince us that business for the beekeeper must be holding its head above water. Right now beekeepers are standing in the middle of this teetertotter called "business cycles." They are keeping their balance exceptionally well.

Beekeepers have told us of their good honeyflows this year. Even the conservative Wall Street Journal feels compelled to come out with this fairly optimistic statement: "Early estimates say this looks like a normal honey year, probably running about 205 million pounds for the whole country."

Your increased interest in fair exhibits, advertising, consumer education through recipe leaflets, and honey publicity must mean that beekeepers too are optimistic about the amount of honey they will have to market.

This is the cue that brings the American Honey Institute out of the wings to take its place in the middle of the stage.

In this day of faraway markets, strange customers, and vicious competition, the lone ranger type of marketing is obsolete. The cozy intimacy between buyer and seller, like that found in the old time country store, has been driven out by big business. In its place we find a merry-go-round of marketing methods that are cold and impersonal in their dealings with the consumer.

Today, to coax back some of the warmth of the person-to-person selling of yesteryear, the honey industry has set up the American Honey Institute. It is our aim to place honey in the favorable light before the buyer. Where the country clerk could lean across the counter and confidentially tell Mrs. that "Honey

is a good buy today, "ma'm!" we talk to housewives all over the country through our woman's page honey features, whispering to them about "that new Honey-Coconut Chiffon Pie—have you tried it?"

We make friends with the American Homemaker for honey. We give her our latest recipes, we tell her how to improve her menus, we show her how honey can be used economically and efficiently in the home.

Although nothing can ever take the place of the old-fashioned, direct person-to-person selling (and that is where the beekeeper himself must shine), we at the Institute attempt to smile and shake hands with the whole tribe of American homemakers. And we are successful.

Proof positive comes to us in two ways: First of all, homemakers themselves take the time to write us about the success they have with our recipes. They like our material. "No," they say, "I hadn't used honey in baking before, but after I found out how moist and tender it kept a cake, I think I'll try it in other foods."

And so it goes. Last year's requests for honey recipes from homemakers alone weighed 208 pounds in the cardboard boxes they were stored in!

Newspaper food editors clamor for our recipes accompanied with glossy pictures of honey and honey foods. "Give us more of the same," they say, "Your honey recipes are excellent. And we can always use the pictures."

Second, beekeepers themselves applaud our work by demanding more honey recipe leaflets for their customers and by contributing money for further work.

It is the beekeeper's approval that we enjoy the most. After all, the American Honey Institute is the beekeeper's organization; it operates in his interests; it runs on his funds.

This year more than ever finds the beekeeper solidly behind the Institute. Once again, the "little men" of industry—in this case, the honey industry—show the world that they hold the scepter of power in their hands. The American Honey Institute is thriving under their care.

Is it any wonder that we are optimistic?



Gwenyth Wykes

Honeyflow Forecaster



YOUTHFUL Australian botanist Gwenyth Wykes is trying to find a reliable method of forecasting the probable honeyflow from eucalyptus trees, work, that if successful, will make her "No. 1 scientist" in the eyes of Australian beekeepers.

The bulk of Australia's honey comes from the nectar of eucalyptus trees, and Australian apiarists migrate from district to district in search of promising areas, often to be disappointed in their hopes for a good flow of nectar; hence the importance of Miss Wykes' work.

Gwenyth Wykes was born in Melbourne, capital of the state of Victoria. She attended the Presbyterian Ladies College, Melbourne, for nine years, being dux equalis in her final year at school and winning a number of major scholarships to the University of Melbourne.

She won the Botany exhibition in the first year of her science course, and in 1944 received her Bachelor of Science degree with first-class honors. After graduating, she joined the staff of the Botany school at the University, and soon afterwards was selected to investigate the problem of nectar secretion in eucalyptus, with a view to establishing a method of forecasting the honeyflow.

Her three years of field work (testing the starch content of various species of eucalyptus trees) took her into some of the wildest and most remote parts of Victoria. An athletic and resourceful girl, she loved the outdoor life and made light of its inconveniences. Many eucalyptus forests are beyond the railway services, so she had to get to them as best she could, sometimes by bicycle, sometimes on horseback. She has accepted lifts in cars, trucks, mail-vans and butchers' carts. Often she has driven with beekeepers in their caravans, followed by trucks packed with hives and stacking equipment in portable honey boxes.

Results of her tests indicate that there is a definite connection between starch content and nectar flow. If no starch is present in the eucalyptus, no nectar will flow; if there is plenty of starch there should be a good flow, though climatic conditions may modify this. Many Victorian beekeepers are already getting satisfactory results by using the starch test to determine the likely honeyflow.

Miss Wykes' thesis on this work helped her to win the Botany exhibition in the final year of her Master of Science course.

In July 1948 she left Australia to begin two years' work in the bee section of the Rothamsted Agricultural Experimental Station, Herts., England. Her studies there are a continuation of her Australian work, with the emphasis shifted from field work to the investigation of the actual secretion of nectar and the factors that control it.

Before beginning work at Rothamsted she attended the eighth International Entomological Conference at Stockholm. Afterwards she went with a small party of scientists—a Norwegian, a Swede and a Dutch-Englishman—to visit beekeeping institutes and centers in Lapland, Denmark, and Sweden.

Articles about Miss Wykes' work, including the one she wrote for the American Bee Journal,* have brought her letters from beekeepers in such widely separated countries as Palestine, Austria, Morocco, and U. S. A. She concluded a broadcast over the B. B. C. by saying that her experience in Britain and Europe, as well as in Australia, had convinced her that beekeepers were the friendliest people in the world.

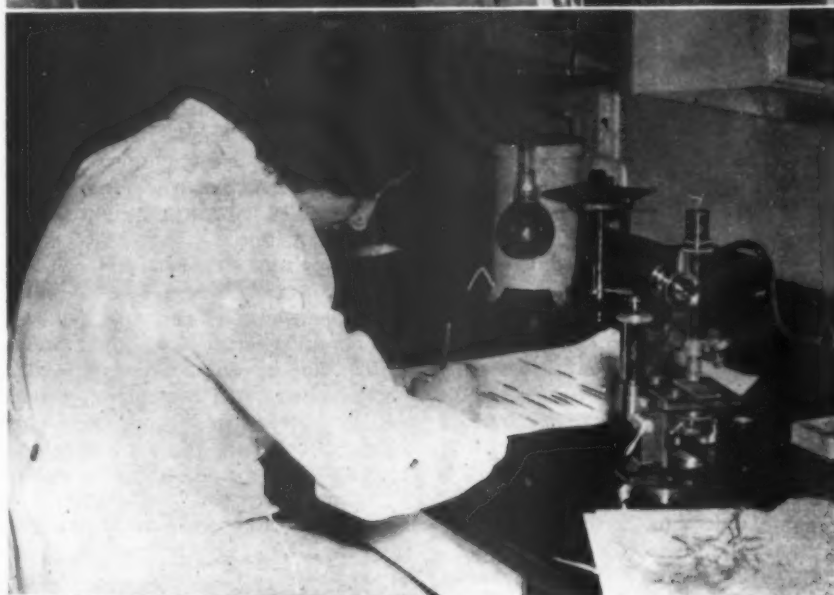
*July 1948 issue.

Beekeeping In Australia

Migratory bee farming, by which the apiarist follows the honeyflow and sets down his hives for only so long as the bees have plenty of blossoms to work on, is rapidly expanding honey production in Australia. There has been a vast increase in the yield since this form of honey gathering was introduced. Motor traction, mobile extraction units and labor saving appliances have all combined to increase the farmer's production and to make his work less arduous.

There are about 1,600 full time beekeepers in Australia. Approximately 320,000 colonies are operated. Prices for honey are fixed by regulation. There is no Acarine disease in Australia, but American foulbrood occurs in all states except Queensland. The organized inspection of apiaries keeps the disease under control. European foulbrood has not been found in Australia. There is some paralysis and Nosema but not enough to cause great concern.

The Government does not assist apiculture financially, but the various state departments provide literature, carry out inspection, hold field days for beekeepers, and in New South Wales a summer school for beekeepers is held yearly. The Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research carries out long-range experiments in the interests of beekeeping.



(Upper picture) Gwenyth Wykes conducting a starch test on an Australian yellow gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*).

(Middle) Gwenyth Wykes in her laboratory at the University of Melbourne. (Australian official photos).

(Left) Modern homestead at Kellyville, New South Wales, and some of the home hives belonging to Australian migratory bee farmer, H. Darrell. Situated at the foot of the Blue Mountains, the Darrell home is in typical Australian bush country, surrounded by tall gum trees, which are the source of most of Australia's honey. (Courtesy of British Combine N.Y.C.)

Discussion

Should queen excluders be used with ten-frame equipment in extracted honey production? This is a controversial question—many beekeepers consider excluders an essential part of management, while others are dubious about using them.

In the chapter on Beekeeping Equipment in the new edition of "The Hive and the Honey Bee" we find this statement: "Inasmuch as queens seldom enter comb honey supers, bulk comb honey supers, or shallow extracting supers, queen excluders are seldom used when honey is produced in shallow supers. In the production of extracted honey with full depth bodies used as supers, queen excluders are often inserted between them and the brood nest. However, it is generally thought that their use interferes with ventilation and the free passage of bees."

Here are some opinions from our readers:

Julius Lysne,
Wisconsin

Queen excluders are a decided advantage here in Wisconsin. The objection made to queen excluders is they slow up the workers and cut down the crop. This is overcome entirely if the three-wire and wood excluder is used. It will keep the queen where you want her and the workers pass through it readily. At the beginning of the main honeyflow the queen may be confined to the lower brood chamber by means of the excluder. As the food chamber has an auger hole to serve as a flight entrance, many workers can pass through it.

Some object to excluders because it takes too much work to find queens and confine them to the lower chamber during the honeyflow. There is no need to do this unless the colony is Demareed. The excluder may be placed over the food chamber if desired. Unless the excluder is used, the two lower hive bodies must be interchanged every eight or ten days to prevent the expansion of the brood nest up into the supers. Nothing is so disgusting as to find brood in the supers at extracting time.

There is no reason to believe that the excluder will shorten the crop. On the contrary, its use directly over the brood chamber will make it pos-

sible to place empty supers directly over the excluder and this is sometimes a decided advantage. When a well-filled hive body is used it will tend to restrict honey storage more than an excluder. Some beekeepers practice top supering, as this method saves much extra work. The excluder must be used with this method also until the food chamber is well filled. The queen is driven down automatically during a heavy honeyflow but when flows are light and intermittent the excluder is a practical necessity.

• • • •

Charles B. Miles,
Iowa

As I use eight-frame equipment, perhaps you will disqualify me from the discussion, but I will take a chance on it. I know that most beekeepers don't use excluders, but to me that doesn't mean a thing. Most beekeepers don't use eight-frame equipment either, but I wouldn't change to ten. My reason for using an excluder is that I like to have the queen where I can find her and the brood separate from the honey. With the queen confined to the bottom chamber, I can remove brood and give her empty brood combs to keep her satisfied, and encourage her to lay at top capacity. When a queen is allowed to run anywhere, she hunts out drone comb to waste her time and energy on, and scatters brood here and there. Confining her to one chamber requires fewer brood combs, and I can keep my combs sorted and give her the best worker combs.

My storage combs have no brood in them, but are light-colored, which adds to the lightness of the honey. Also these new combs are not such a moth risk as the old worker combs. More than half of my combs are the surplus type that have never had brood in them, and are not a bad risk for moths.

We produce a better per colony yield of honey year in and year out

than most of our neighboring beekeepers, as excluders do not keep the bees from storing. Our method of supering is to place the empty super on the excluder and the filled supers (if any) on top. The bees will work a super next to the brood much better than one placed on top of several supers of honey. If a colony has a couple of partly filled supers, and a flow starts up, they will fill out that lower super and finish it before going to the one above. Therefore, I believe in fixing it so they will do what they like to do best. With the queen confined below, the empty supers down, and the full supers on top you can take off your finished honey without any messy sorting of brood. I know whereof I speak, because once in a while I get a queen above the excluder by accident, and oh! what a job pulling out those burrcombed bulging honeycombs to find her and get her down where she belongs again. I can work several regular colonies while I am chasing down one misplaced queen.

• • • •

C. H. Pease,
Connecticut

In the February, 1947, *Gleanings in Bee Culture*, their senior editor, E. R. Root, said: "An open mind on controversial subjects is important now. There are people who shut their eyes and ears to the truth, and even after they have seen the 'giraffe' will declare positively 'there ain't no such animal.'"

After a beekeeper has the idea fixed in his mind that traps and excluders are a detriment and hinder the bees in their job of storing nectar, even though his decision is based entirely on theory, guesswork, or imagination instead of actual knowledge, it's about as easy to convince him otherwise as it is to introduce a queen to a well-established laying worker colony.

Those who practice the top supering method, as most beekeepers do to save themselves work, and stack up

Next Discussion

WHAT CONTRIBUTED MOST TO YOUR SUCCESS AS A BEEKEEPER: A STRAIN OF BEES? SPECIAL MANIPULATION? SPECIAL EQUIPMENT? LOCATION? ETC. Following this question the editor would like to have your opinion of this page: SHALL WE CONTINUE THESE DISCUSSIONS NEXT YEAR? IF SO, WHAT SUBJECTS WOULD YOU SUGGEST?

supers as high as their heads, evidently overlook the fact that to compel their bees to jostle their way through among the thousands of other bees and climb the ladders of combs to deposit their loads of nectar, they are hindering their bees a hundred times more than any excluders or traps could possibly do. Even to climb through only one super consumes more time than going through a dozen excluders.

Certainly no one can question the opinion of an authority like the late George S. Demuth, who for thirteen years preceding his death was editor of *Gleanings in Bee Culture*. Here are only three of Mr. Demuth's many published statements regarding excluders: "Bees being compelled to creep through the small openings in the excluder, experimental evidence thus far indicates that this does not constitute a barrier to the bees." In his book "Five Hundred Answers to Bee Questions," Mr. Demuth said: "If other conditions are equal there should be no difference in the amount of honey stored when the excluder is used. In fact, other methods of keeping the queen out of the supers may reduce the amount of honey stored more than an excluder could possibly reduce it." And again in *Gleanings in Bee Culture* for August, 1927, Mr. Demuth told us that: "It is doubtful if the queen excluder hinders the work in the supers in any way. Strong colonies apparently work just as freely in supers above an excluder as though no excluder were present, as you will find if you try out carefully an experiment with colonies arranged both ways."

Emerson said: "The measure of a master is his success in bringing all men round to his opinion twenty years later." If you will try the experiment suggested by Mr. Demuth perhaps you may agree with him—"twenty years later."

Here's a little of my own experience: Government statistics inform us that in Connecticut the average crop per colony, is around 35 pounds and never over 40. Last year, when the government report was 37 pounds, my bees were so hindered (?) crawling through both traps and excluders all summer that they gave me the per colony average for the whole apiary of exactly 86 pounds, which, I think, compares very favorably with 37. My best colony worked through both a trap and excluder all summer and dragged in 142 pounds of fine light honey. These are facts, not theories nor guesswork—but my traps were not the Alley brand.

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—I LIKE DR QUEENS BECAUSE

(poetry) "The spread of American Foulbrood they reduce;
By heritage superior they also produce."

—Wayne Keller, Oshkosh, Nebraska.

IOWA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
STATE HOUSE, DES MOINES 19, IOWA

All Around the Bee Yard

Now, what the deuce shall I write about? It's a nice, bright cold day, reminding me that fall is here; season's over; bees facing winter. Always the year's end calls for a readjustment of body and mind, like a bear getting ready for winter when he must live off his fat.

Honey is in the cans but it is a long way from market. In many ways our honey does not line up with other food products when it is offered for sale. Many consumers still think of it as a seasonal product, like maple sugar (just let the maple sirup men see that and watch them scorch). Truth is, neither honey nor maple sugar (nor sirup) are seasonal. No reason why they should be seasonal just because there is a time of year when the products are harvested. Trouble is the public has been led to consider them seasonal because producers have come on the market with their wares right after harvest. They peddled and sold out. The maple producers long ago got together to remedy the situation but the bee men—they still peddle.

It does disturb us to hear of 150, 200, or 300 pound honey crops. Mostly such tall tales come from exceptional places or in exceptional seasons. Then, when we hear, we want to run to the spot, like a moss-backed gold miner, with his pan, to elbow out the man who has the grub stake.

I'll admit I would like even a fair run of 100 pound crops. All through war's high prices, our crops were down and they are still down. But the guy who works for us still wants his dollar an hour. The gas man still wants his three-time price per gallon and, until this year, the package man still wanted his four bucks.

Result—debt!

The Federation is the "man" of the hour. If we can get the good old Government to give us a promise to buy high, take our honey out of trade, and sell when the buyers get panicky enough to give us decent prices, we will sell out from under

G. H. Cale

those certificates so the Government can forget them. Then if we can get enough research started on honey uses to divert 50,000,000 pounds or more each year into cereals, baked goods, candies, golf balls, paste, drinks and what have you, our annual production for the table will go down so far that the man who wants honey to sell will really have to untie his gold bags to get it. Whoopee!—That's not sarcasm—I believe it will work.—Thing is, will we support the only group that ever got wise to what to do—the Federation.

Sometimes I wish I had never seen or heard of honey bees. Sometimes I feel that it would be a wonderful release to know nothing more about them than the fact that the darn things sting and the best neighborliness toward a bee yard is to stay a long way off.

This mood reminds me of one of the bee men who works with me. He and I spent a whole afternoon in one of his yards, in pre-sulfa, pre-resistant days, and found over half the colonies had foulbrood. Riding home that evening he remarked, "One of the nice things about beekeeping is that you can get into your car and ride a long way off." It's a bully feeling after a mess of foulbrood.

But the messes get straightened out, sooner or later. Now we don't have to ride away from disease; seldom from swarms; seldom from winter loss; we take off honey easily, quickly and smoothly—our management is more skillful.

We have one big job to do (and you can guess it seems big to me because of the frequency with which I return to it). We must find a way to lift honey to a dignified level in the markets. Honey won't lift itself. It doesn't have to. There are few foods with more glamour, more solid

qualities, more health factors—none with more naturalness. But do we tell about it? We don't do as well at it as a school girl selling poppies—"Want to buy a poppy, Mister?" Huh!

Got a boy who just got a boy. Grandpa (you see). Asked him if he was going to try nice honey as a milk modifier. Answer—"NO." What the heck is the matter? All the time he was growing up I did not sell him on honey and now at thirty he still is a lip salesman and not a heart salesman. Guess it was my fault.

But, darn it, I eat enough of the stuff—cereals, tea, fruits, rolls, waffles, pancakes, honey-candied sweet potatoes, honey pumpkin pies and cookies, honey candies—and cambric tea—ever try it? Just cream in hot water, with honey. Honey runs out my ears.

That reminds me. Why talk so much about cooking with honey when there are so many fine ways to use it as is—raw. To my thinking the quickest way to get honey down the hatch is when it goes down by itself. It needs no apology.

Honey In Color

Lake Shore Honey (Walter Straub) is certainly pouring on the eye appeal these days in full-page color advertising in Chicago papers. His lead is a fascinating new sweet clover perfume, \$1.00 value, free of cost with one Lake Shore Honey box top—to introduce honey in the honeycomb jar.

Colors—blue, yellow, and red. Circle insert showing the patented drip-cut top on the Lake Shore Honey honeycomb jar.

Good advertising.

Can You Help?

I am a honey producer and a honey salesman. After 35 years of active experience I am still strangely short of good arguments and points in favor of honey for health, aside from cooking and baking. Can you give me any pointers?

J. H. Sturdevant, St. Paul, Nebr.

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PACKAGE BEES headed by Mountain Gray Caucasians or leather colored Italian queens. March 20 delivery. Write for prices. Twin Bee Co-op., 3616 Caucasian Circle, Tampa, Florida.

QUEENS—QUEENS—Best of quality. Three Banded Italian, select untested, \$1.00 each, 1 to 25; 25 up, 80c each. Health certificate with every order. Alamance Bee Company, Geo. E. Curtis, Mgr., Graham, North Carolina.

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Copy for this department must reach us not later than the tenth of each month preceding date of issue. If intended for classified department it should be so stated when advertisement is sent.

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Advertisers offering used equipment or bees on comb must guarantee them free from disease or certificate of inspection from authorized inspector. The conditions should be stated to insure that buyer is fully informed.

73 pounds Dadant wired super foundation. Eight cartons, 55 each. Modified Dadant extracting frames. One carton 55 Modified Dadant brood frames. 65 three-frame deep nucleus hives, painted, metal covers, adjustable entrances, used once, no disease, perfect. Cheap. John McCall, Tecumseh, Michigan.

1000 standard ten-frame factory made supers, with 9 drawn combs each. Priced \$2.25 each. 800 all metal queen excluders, 2 5-ton honey tanks. Write Chester M. Howard, Independence, California.

FOR SALE—200 supers for 4 1/4 x 4 1/4 x 1 7/8 beeyaw sections. 200 section holders for 1 7/8 sections. 200 section holders for 1 1/2 sections. 75 shallow supers, 5/8 frames. Pop corn, South American yellow, in bulk. Richard K. Evans, Hoopston, Illinois, Rt. 1.

1 to 40 colonies with crop. Disease free. Phone 400 or 54. Paul LaPlant, Anoka, Minnesota.

IN FLORIDA 600 1 1/2-story colonies, \$10.00 each. Cypress hives, combs in good condition. All young queens. With six frames of brood or more, and ready for production. No disease or junk. Extra equipment below cost. Box 160, care American Bee Journal.

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WANTED—Dark honey. State price. Robert Peach, Union City, Indiana.

WANTED—Comb honey and extracted honey, large or small amounts. Send price list and samples. R. A. Raley, Box 2263, Daytona Beach, Florida.

WANTED—Large truck load finest quality clover honey. Ellsworth Meineke, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

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WANTED—All grades comb and extracted honey, large or small amounts. Quote price in first letter. Mail sample. King Honey Co., 326 Bales St., Kansas City, Mo.

HONEY AND WAX WANTED. Mail sample. Advise quantity. Bryant & Sawyer, 2425 Hunter St., Los Angeles, Calif.

WANTED—Honey and wax—any quantity. Send samples and prices. Alexander Company, 819 Reynolds Road, Toledo 7, Ohio.

HONEY FOR SALE

WANTED—Extracted honey, white or light amber, in 60's. State price in first letter. Ed. Heldt, 1004 W. Washington St., Bloomington, Illinois.

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MINNESOTA'S finest pure white, mild, clover honey. 5-pound pail, \$1.50 post-paid. Sixty-pound can, \$7.50 F.O.B.; 10 or more cans \$7.20 each. Liquefied and strained. Robert E. Denny, Roseau, Minnesota.

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CARLOAD LOTS new crop, top quality, light color, clover and basswood honey packed in new sixty pound cans. Johnson's Bee Farms, Callaway, Minnesota.

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HELP WANTED—State bee and truck experience, age, weight, height, wages expected. Stewart Apiaries, Fairfax, Mo.

WANTED

BEE MAN with some bees wishes to change location. What have you to sell or lease? Write Box 15, care American Bee Journal.

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HONEYFLOW BEE FEEDER—all metal, like a frame, fits any hive. Holds generous supply of syrup, float for bees. Write for name of dealer, \$2.50 each. W. O. Goebel, Knoxville, Iowa.

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STUDY YOUR CONDITIONS—plan for better BEE PASTURE. Free circular "SEEDS OF HONEY PLANTS." Melvin Pellett, Atlantic, Iowa.

PERMANENT PERENNIALS, TREES, SHRUBS for your bee pasture can now be planted this fall. Illustrated folder free. Nicollet County Nursery, St. Peter, Minnesota.

MISCELLANEOUS

KNOW interesting facts concerning the bees of India through the **INDIAN BEE JOURNAL**, published in English, by the Phupen Apiaries (Himalayas), Ramgarh, Dist. Nainital, U. P., India and obtainable from them. Subs. Rs 7/-or 10 Shillings or 2.25 Dollars per annum. Single copy Rs 1/4-s. 1/9 or 49 cents (international money order). Payment in mint postage stamps of your country accepted.

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Ladino vs. White Dutch Clover

In the *Agronomy Journal* for June is an article by Dale Smith, Assistant Professor of Agronomy at the Wisconsin Experimental Station, entitled "Differential Survival of Ladino and Common White Clover Encased in Ice." Stolons of these two clovers were selected and encased in ice to note their percentage of survival.

Stolons of ladino were more easily killed than those of ordinary white clover. After four days in ice, only three-fourths of the ladino were

alive, and after twelve days only three-tenths still lived. With white clover, no loss occurred the first eight days and nine-tenths were alive after twelve days. Even after thirty days in ice, all the white clover stolons were not killed.

Apparently the loss in ladino was caused by the larger size of the stolons and the fact that there is a heavier accumulation of carbon dioxide in the media around the stolons.

Honey Selling

I am a small beekeeper with about 150 colonies and I do not know much about the methods or the problems of the big beekeeper but it seems strange to me that anyone should regard honey as a slow seller.

I am a side-line beekeeper but so are many others. I have been selling for thirty years and have always sold all of the honey right at my honey house. I can still sell it at 20 cents in the customers' containers right at my tank. Some of my customers have been buying for thirty years, most of them farmers who use from 50 to 150 pounds and buy it from me every year.

During the war I did not bottle my honey in one-pound jars and try to get 50 cents for them as many did. Those who are having trouble selling now are likely those who asked too much and sold their customers down the river. My advice to small beekeepers is to look back and see if they are proud of their past and remember when they bowed to the dollar they lost their heritage. If they had stayed with their friends during the years when honey was a necessary item in the home their friends would now stay with them.

P. L. Conaway, Indiana.



"Tell me about your hobby, Mr. Cramer." (Reprinted from LOOK—America's Family Magazine)

Previews of Coming Events



(Top) Dr. Tim Dyce, Professor of Beekeeping at Cornell University, addresses the Vermont beekeepers meeting held recently at Alburg Springs, Vermont at the Apiary of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Barozzi on the shores of Lake Champlain. Standing at the right are Charles Mraz, Secretary-Treasurer, and Clyde Wood, President of the Association, who were re-elected for another year. Beside them are Mr. and Mrs. Barozzi.
(Below) Mrs. Carl Soder of Stratford, Iowa looks puzzled as she judges honey samples. She was wondering whether two samples from the same contestant, identically packaged, but one early and one later crop, could possibly be the same honey.

Texas Annual Meeting College Station, October 3-4

The annual meeting of the Texas Beekeepers Association will be held at A. & M. College on Monday and Tuesday, October 3-4. Dr. and Mrs. F. L. Thomas will hold open house for beekeepers Sunday evening, October 2. At the meeting a new constitution will be considered, and affiliation with the American Beekeeping Federation, honey price support, and pollination will be discussed. Research work at A. & M. will be reported.

L. A. M. Barnette, Sec'y-Treas.

Georgia Annual Convention Homerville, October 26

The annual convention of the Georgia Beekeepers Association will be held in Homerville, Georgia on October 26th.

T. C. Chambers, Sec'y.

Illinois Convention Springfield, November 11-12

The Illinois State Beekeepers' Association will hold its annual convention at the St. Nicholas Hotel in Springfield on November 11-12. Meetings will be held in the Green Room. Plan to come for a profitable and enjoyable time.

Arkansas Annual Meeting Little Rock, November

The annual meeting of the Arkansas Beekeepers Association will be held in November at Little Rock, Arkansas. Plan to attend this important event.

Bergen County, N. J. Cresskill, October 9

The Bergen County Branch of the New Jersey Beekeepers' Association will meet October 9 at Mr. C. W. Palmouth's apiary, 276 County Road, Cresskill, N. J.

R. B. Birrer, Sec'y.-Treas.

New Jersey Meeting Burleigh, October 15

The October meeting of the New Jersey Beekeepers' Association will be held October 15, 1949 at the queen yard of Mr. Henry Brown, in Burleigh, two miles south of Cape May Court House on U. S. Route 9. Mr. Brown is the originator of a

stingless strain of bees. You will find this meeting most interesting.

M. H. Stricker, Sec'y.

**Louisiana Association Meeting
Baton Rouge, October 28**

The Louisiana Beekeepers Association will hold their annual meeting on October 28 at the State Capitol Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting time will be 9:30 A. M. Calvin Bessonnet, Pres.

**Westchester County, New York,
Poundridge, October 16**

The Westchester County Beekeepers Association will hold its regular monthly meeting at 2:30 P. M. on Sunday, October 16, 1949 at the home of Mr. Arthur Carmen, Poundridge, New York.

Practical outdoor demonstrations of hive inspection will be given, and members will be instructed regarding wintering of bees.

Visitors are always welcome. Refreshments will be served.

B. F. Miller, Publicity.

**New Brunswick Annual Meeting
Fredericton, N. B.**

The 1949 honey crop in New Brunswick is expected to be considerably lighter because of lack of moisture, President William Sansom told at the meeting of the New Brunswick Beekeepers' Association held recently. President Sansom was re-elected to office at this meeting.

The association adopted a resolution asking the New Brunswick government to establish an educational program to inform the public of the importance of the forests in that province. Cutting of timbered areas has resulted in lack of moisture, causing the small streams to dry up. The meeting also supported protests of beekeepers in Westmorland and Charlotte Counties against the honey tax levied by the Canadian Beekeepers' Council to promote sales.

Ersel F. Moore, provincial apiarist, reported that Canada's honey crop totaled 44,000,000 pounds last year, the largest in history. New Brunswick beekeepers have sold their whole production.

W. P. Kilfoil.

October, 1949

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**QUEENS—Any Number,
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**Rich's All Italian Hybrid Disease Resistant
Queens—a New Type of Bee
NORTHERN BRED ALL ITALIAN**

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This stock is produced and maintained by northern honey producers at much expense. We help pay that cost.

1-24	\$1.25	25-99	\$1.15
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Beekeeping On a Share Basis

by Carroll Swanson

H. L. Hanson, of the Farmer-Stockman, in Oklahoma City, heads a Service Bureau for that publication, and among the services offered is that of advice on the most acceptable practices in the division of returns from farming on a rental basis. One of the readers sends an inquiry having to do with a situation in which bees and equipment are furnished by the owner, while the operator furnishes all of the care and labor and the honeyhouse. His specific questions are: Who should furnish the winter feed to carry the bees to the spring honeyflow; who should pay for containers for marketing the honey; and how should the honey be divided.

I will try to give some information about it but, as in every similar case, there are likely to be circumstances that would not enter into some other partnership. In this instance, the operator provides the honeyhouse. Ordinarily, the owner of the bees furnishes the honeyhouse.

Usually the owner supplies the bees, with proper hives, supers and other equipment, besides the honeyhouse. The bees should have enough feed or be supplied by the owner with feed to carry them into the first honeyflow after the agreement has been made. From then on, it is the operator's business to see that the bees have enough stores to carry them through winter. If they must be fed, the operator pays half of the feed and the owner pays half. This deters the operator from taking off too much honey of which he gets one half.

The division of the honey and wax is on a fifty-fifty basis. The operator takes care of the bees, produces and extracts the honey. Each of the partners furnishes the containers needed for his part of the honey, such as tin cans or jars. Where there is considerable expense in selling or bottling, each of the partners pays for one half of the cost.

In the question proposed, the operator furnishes the honeyhouse. If that means he furnishes the extractor, melter, heating equipment, and other machinery usual in a honeyhouse, he should have additional recompense for this.

Where there are outapiaries transportation becomes necessary. In some cases the operator only furnishes

his labor and the owner furnishes the truck, the operator getting forty per cent of the honey the owner sixty per cent. If the operator does furnish the honeyhouse, it would perhaps be somewhat near an even break if the owner furnished transportation to the outyards.

Then, there is the question of increase. It is natural for bees to swarm. A good operator will try to keep his bees from swarming but they often do swarm in spite of all he may do to prevent it. Some contracts call for an agreement whereby the operator gets half of the swarms but provides his own equipment for them. This does not work out well since it allows the operator to build up an independent ownership and it also leads to accounting difficulties and separation of yards. It is better if all increase remains the property of the owner if he provides all the equipment necessary for the new bees.

There is another phase to increase. The owner may feel, if he has empty hives, that the operator should hive packages in them or that he should divide colonies to fill the hives, thus reducing the crop. Over a long term period this might not make much difference but on a short term basis, it is too much to the operator's disadvantage.

The fair way is to agree in the contract that at the end of one or two years the operator should have in hives the same number of colonies that were on hand at the start of the contract. If the owner had two hundred colonies to start, he should have two hundred at the end of two years, even though the operator may have to buy bees or make divisions to keep up the number.

Illinois.

Washington Activities To Date

(Continued from page 478)

could well be one of the best things ever to happen to the honey industry because it will enable us to rebuild our export markets and to find new uses for honey outside our regular channels of trade. The industry is advised, however, that this program will not be in effect until approved by the Fruit and Vegetable Branch

and the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The subsidy program, if approved, should bring a certain amount of stability to our honey markets. However, it will build slowly over a period of time. Price support will give us immediate stability. We are not trading horses but are working harder than ever to get price support for honey in this session of Congress.

Wintering Out of Doors

(Continued from page 470)

inches of snow on the ground. This year I wintered seventy-one full colonies and two nuclei. Up to March first, I had lost one full colony. This colony evidently died early in the season. The cluster, when dead, occupied the entire lower hive body. It never moved up into the upper hive body, which was entirely full of stores. There was no empty space in any of the combs in the top hive body, which may have made it a little difficult for them to move up. Upon examination, I found the colony had about three or four square inches of sealed brood, evidently left over from fall. This too may have had something to do with their failure to move. They may also have been handicapped by the fact that they were somewhat shaded by another colony. All the other colonies moved on to new stores.

I wonder whether we do not put too much emphasis on outside conditions: wind protection, for instance. You remember we were mistaken about heavy packing. I have my bees in three yards. In one, the hives face south; in another west; and in the third, east. The hives are in two rows, and are placed in pairs. In most cases, the only wind protection they have is a barbed wire fence. We had plenty of wind. At no time were the colonies on the ends of the rows covered with snow. A number of times, during some of our blizzards, I watched the wind and snow beat against them.

On the eighth of March the snow was mostly gone. I removed all the tar paper wrappings in order to examine for queen-rightness, and put on the extra stores. I found the colonies in average, or better than average condition. Of course a few were below average, but in most of them, when the bees were clustered, the cluster extended the full width of a ten-frame standard hive body. The

colonies on the ends of the rows were all in good condition. This leads me to wonder whether wind protection is of so much importance. I am sure I would be willing to exchange wind protection for the small amount of sunshine available in winter.

My method of beekeeping provides a lot of young bees, abundance of good stores, and young queens for wintering. With a top entrance, these colonies can take a lot of punishment. There are no mouldy combs in evidence.

Some may object to strong colonies using up stores during early spring. Yes, they do convert a lot of stores into young bees, but as a result, the colonies are in a position to take advantage of the build-up flows, so that the early use of stores is largely compensated for. We have no spring dwindling.

Washington.

International Congress at Amsterdam

(Continued from page 471)

The author of "Beekeeping in Antiquity" gives a brief outline of the books dealing with bees which appeared after the invention of printing. He traces the development of scientific beekeeping following the discovery of the microscope, culminating in the work of Swammerdam. Finally he describes the development of the octagonal hive in Britain, emphasizing the importance of the Stewarton hive which held the field in Britain from 1819 to 1880.

Bee Breeding—

C. G. Butler, England. "Artificial Insemination of the Honey Bee and its Significance."

This is a description of the technique of artificial insemination of queen bees as developed in America. Employing this technique the author has succeeded in producing queens which have headed large colonies for two years.

J. Hambleton, America. "Program of Bee Breeding in America."

Hambleton, indicates the importance of evaluating properly queens which have been mated instrumentally. American research workers are concentrating on producing bees which will give a large honey yield, will be easy to handle and will not be too susceptible to disease. Queens mated in the breeding stations are now being sent out to a small group of selected honey pro-

ducers so that they can test the queens under their own conditions.

M. Rousseau, France. "Remarks on Selection in Beekeeping and the Determination of Characteristics of Breeds."

Rousseau advocates the establishment of isolated breeding stations so that not only artificial insemination but natural impregnation can be practiced to procure queens of controlled pure lines. The author considers it important to make careful records of the anatomical and physiological aspects of the progeny, so that, for example, bees with a longer tongue and a larger honey sac might be produced.

Disease—

R. Lunder, Norway. "The Control of Nosema Disease In Norway."

In Norway as in Holland there is neither Acarine disease nor foulbrood. Nosema is the disease that concerns beekeepers. It is still possible for an infected stock to get 50 lbs. honey in a season, but generally colonies are 20% weaker than they should be. It is important to prevent spread by destroying infected apiaries and, when importing queens, to destroy the transport cage and the accompanying bees.

H. Gontarski, Germany. "The Chemotherapeutic Treatment of Nosema-Infected Bees."

Experiments in Germany to find a substance which will kill Nosema spores without injuring the bee have been unsuccessful. Penicillin, Vitamin B1, and a yeast extract have been used in laboratory experiments there is evidence to show that penicillin promotes rapid regeneration of the epithelium of the intestine of the bee. Further investigation is necessary.

A. Brizard, France. "The Problem of European Foulbrood Disease in France from an Aetiological Point of View."

Since American foulbrood can now be controlled by sulfa treatment, European foulbrood demands further investigation to secure its control. It is not benign, varies greatly in its symptoms and is difficult to diagnose with certainty. In discussion, Dr. Morgenthaler recalled that in Switzerland the disease is found in certain areas, which have now been mapped out, and that it is diagnosed if either *B. pluton* or *B. euridyce* is found microscopically.

J. Guillhon, France. "Apimyiasis." Apimyiasis is a disease found in

Brazil, Russia and to a lesser extent in France. It is due to the presence of larvae of certain diptera in the musculature of the bee. When the muscles of the thorax are involved the disease becomes serious. Its possibility should be kept in mind when symptoms suggesting acarine or poisoning appear.

Disease Control—

P. Pillon, France. "The Organization for the Maintenance of Health of Bees."

This is an outline of the legislative measures considered to be necessary for the control of bee disease in France.

P. S. Milne, England. "Bee Disease Legislation in England and Wales."

This paper explains the legislative measures adopted in England and Wales since 1942. The author asserts that as a result of these measures the incidence of foulbrood has been reduced considerably, particularly in the southwest of England where it was most frequently found.

(To be continued in November)

German Book On Woodland Honey Sources

There has just appeared from the press of Franz Ehrenwirth in Munich, Germany, the fourth volume in the series of "Beitrage zur Herkunftsbestimmung der Honig," written by an old acquaintance and friend Dr. Enoch Zander, director of the Bavarian Experiment Station for Apiculture in Erlangen.

The present volume is devoted to woodland honeys, honey from the trees—natural honey, but principally honeydews. Most of Germany belongs to that great forest extending westward through Asia into Europe. Thus German beekeepers are very dependent upon forest honeys.

Dr. Zander goes into detail not only as to the source and quality of these honeys, but also their composition and analysis. While studies were made in Germany the application of the material studied is interesting wherever trees and honeydews of these types are to be found.

The book is of cloth, 275 pages, can be obtained as above at a price of DM 28. We suggest International Money Order.

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Crop and Market

The Crop

In Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire, the crop apparently will be 10 and 20 per cent above last year. Farther south the crop dwindles off and is short in New York, northern and eastern Pennsylvania and down into Maryland. In southern Maryland, however, there is a very definite pick-up, and Virginia shows a much better crop than last year. The crop is shorter in the Carolinas, but increases again in Georgia and Florida, except in the tupelo regions. Tupelo honey probably will not be over 25 or 35 per cent of a crop. Throughout the other southern areas about normal conditions prevail. Much less honey will be produced in western Pennsylvania than last year, but Michigan beekeepers are feeling good over more honey than they have had in several years. Indiana will be slightly above normal, and also the sections of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, southern Wisconsin, Minnesota, eastern Kansas and Nebraska, which had a practical failure last year, have much more this year, even though the average may not be 100 pounds per colony.

Northern sections of Minnesota and Wisconsin are not much better than a year ago. Kansas and Nebraska probably will have 50 per cent of last year, Oklahoma 90 per cent, and Texas perhaps 125 per cent of the rather poor crop last year. Eastern, western, and southern Colorado will not have as much honey as last year, southern Wyoming will probably average the same, and the Big Horn Valley 25 per cent more. Montana shows a big slump whereas Idaho, which had a near-failure last year will have far more. New Mexico and Arizona will average about 100 per cent, Washington 50 per cent, Oregon about normal, and California's average will be about 75 per cent of a year ago. Utah and Nevada will have more honey than a year ago.

The eastern Canadian provinces, which had a bumper crop last year, will not have over 50 per cent per colony average of the 1948 crop. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta are very irregular, some reports giving only 60 per cent of a crop and some reporting as much as 200 pounds per colony. British

M. G. Dadant

Columbia expects its usual good to average crop.

Number of Colonies

We have very few reports of more colonies than a year ago and these belong to the beginner or the beekeeper who is building up. The reduction in number of colonies, which had already started in 1948, is in the sections of heavy production. Some reduction is reported in New York, Virginia, the Carolinas, Ohio, and part of Iowa. In these states the reduction is 10 to 15 per cent. One of our reporters states he has dropped 50 per cent in the number of colonies. In the sweet clover states and the intermountain territory, we find the reductions quite decided, running from 10 to 30 per cent in the number of colonies on the part of many of the commercial beekeepers. This is true as well in Idaho, New Mexico, and Arizona and into California where the reduction probably will be 15 to 20 per cent.

Similarly, very heavy reductions are shown among commercial producers in the Canadian provinces running as high as 40 per cent but no lower than 10 per cent with a few of the moderate-sized beekeepers holding their number of colonies.

Perhaps the reduction in colony numbers has now "run its course" and we may see a gradual appreciation, particularly if honey moves at a fairly satisfactory figure this year.

Honey Selling

In most parts of the country honey is selling slowly, although there is a decided improvement since cooler weather has come. The sale of chunk honey in all southern sections has been very good; in fact there has been a demand for more honey in the comb to cut for bulk or chunk honey than is available. Much more could be sold.

Comb honey similarly is selling quite readily, although one Michigan reporter raises the question whether or not there will be a stagnation on the market. Comb honey so far has

held to a very good price of from \$7.00 to \$10.00 per case. On the whole, southern areas show a better demand, and a better pick up in sales than the northern sections where it is just a little too early to judge.

Honey Prices

Retail prices, as usual, range higher in the East and lower as we proceed west. Eastern areas show retail stores selling at 25 to 35 cents for 1-pound jars and at 98 cents to \$1.50 for 5's. A peculiar thing has happened. Although retail sales are holding at about this figure, even as we go westward, a report comes from Ohio of a cooperative batch of honey selling at 69 cents for 5 pounds in a chain store. In our own home grocery, we find a western packed honey in 5-pound sealed tins at 67 cents. The producer who sold this honey is certainly not getting a good figure for it and the cooperative members are not going to be satisfied when they find their good honey selling at this low figure for 5-pound pails on the retail market.

These are the lowest figures we have seen anywhere and are actual prices. Most prices range from 95 cents to \$1.25 for 5-pound pails and from 22 cents to 32 cents for 1-pound jars.

Jobbing Prices

In the eastern areas, amber will run from 8 to 10 cents and white from 9 to 11 cents. Bear in mind, these are prices quoted for honey by buyers. If you want to go to the lower extremes, California furnishes instances of offers as low as 5 cents for amber and 7 cents for white, but with few sales at these figures. There have been sales of good white honey at 10 and 11 cents, but probably few at this price in California. As a matter of fact, the jobbing price on honey has not been established yet and perhaps will be on a fluctuating basis until some determination is made as to whether or not the government is going to furnish some sort of support.

In the Canadian provinces where the government has picked up some honey and the cooperatives are active, combined with a much reduced crop, the situation looks definitely better for the winter. Ordinary jobbing prices on white honey will run from 14 to 16 cents a pound.

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Are We Holding Back Our Own Progress?

by Chas. S. Hofmann,

Vice-President American Beekeeping Federation

THE question mark on this title is not necessary as we are doing just that. Our Federation income is not keeping pace with the problems presented to it, and the point has been reached where a good share of the program may have to be scrapped because of lack of financial support of the industry.

Only a little over six years ago our Federation rolled off its assembly line. It was a crude affair but it was in running order and began at once to prove that point. Now six years later it is far from being a finished product, but the running is smoother and the working ability greater. This is fortunate, as problems have increased in the same proportion. Now that we have really begun to unite our thoughts and forces, we are suddenly aware of many neglected avenues of industry improvement.

What are some of our immediate jobs? First of all, we need recognition in Washington. Why? Because whether we like it or not, Government controls are part of our life. For beekeeping to try to compete with other branches of agriculture that are secure under Government price guarantees is a difficult thing. We need price support to help us exist as an industry during this period of low markets. But how do we get this recognition in Washington? Simply by selling our story to the legislators and the men in the Department of Agriculture—a man-to-man selling job. President Roy A. Grout has made five trips to Washington and his "Washington Story" has given you a graphic picture of what has been done and what you might expect in the future. Up until a short time ago few men in Washington knew or cared about beekeeping. Would you believe that a congressman serving on the Agricultural Committee could be so uninformed in beekeeping as to realize only in the vaguest way that commercial beekeeping existed? Yet that was true of one of the men on the

present committee. Now this man is informed of our plight and of the great importance of bees to agriculture, and he wants to help us as an industry.

As a group we are beginning to gain the attention we need. On April 27, your Federation obtained a hearing before the Committee on Agriculture. An all-out effort was made to establish that bees are really important to agriculture. This was an important event and was granted only after months of careful preparation. Much could come of this—beekeepers have donated the services of their bees for pollination long enough; it's time we were getting paid for it. Honey is not able to carry the whole financial load of supporting the industry. There is a good chance of gaining some form of price support for honey and some method of paying beekeepers for pollination. But it will take more trips to Washington and long hard hours behind a typewriter. About the only cost to the industry would be train fare for those making the trip. You'd be getting that at bargain rates.

How much of this shall we continue? It's up to us as an industry group. We know that the eventual solution to our problems will have to come from us but right now we need some "hospital care" and feel we have every right to expect it.

We have also a chance to get some badly needed research on honey for use in the baking industry if we will furnish only one-fourth of the total amount needed. This is a chance we've been working for, especially since the National meeting in St. Louis when the head of one of the largest baking research institutes told us that industry would easily use 50,000,000 pounds of honey a year. But he also said research would have to come first because honey is tricky to use in baking. We would hate to lose this for lack of money.

Research and control in the use

of insecticides is important to those of you who produce honey in areas where much poison spraying and dusting is done. This is important; do you want this done?

There are numerous other projects but all of them will take money for printing, mailing, postage, travel fares, secretarial work, etc. And how can this money be raised—from annual dues paid by industry members. This is 5c per colony for beekeepers (with a \$5.00 minimum) and 1% of gross sales from all others. It's as simple as that. The beekeeping industry is hard up. What is 5c per colony for organized effort when it is so obvious that that is what we need so badly? What can you do with a colony of bees that doesn't cost more than 5c? Put on a pail of feed and it has cost you ten times that much. Introduce a queen and you have 20 times 5c. Move a load of bees and there's no comparison in the cost. Do some repair or painting on a hive and with three or four swipes of the brush your nickel is gone. This 5c per colony should be at the top of your budget list because no other equal amount offers better returns. It's your investment in the united front that even Washington officials say we must have. Pay this first—you're going to feel a lot better when you do, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to do collectively what individually you could not accomplish.

Take for example the recent Government purchase of honey for school lunch and institutional feeding. Your Federation worked hard for this, and it was a vast improvement over the last purchase when no price guarantee was given the beekeepers. It will teach children to eat honey—it will remove a part of our surplus—and it will have a steadying effect on our remaining market.

One other privilege goes with your membership—it gives you squawking rights. If your dues are paid and something isn't being run to suit you, you can write any or all of the officers and give them Hail Columbia, and they will have to like it. But if your dues are not paid, you had better keep still, as you will be out of order.

What kind of a beekeeping future do we want? What do YOU think about it?

The Postscript

Milton E. Altpeter, of San Jose, California, sends a newspaper account of the planting of a new farm crop in Santa Clara County. It is indicated that about ten thousand acres will be planted. Some of our readers may remember that several years ago we had safflower in the test garden and were enthusiastic about the way the bees were attracted to the blossoms. Reports from others indicated a rich yield of nectar in California. Now that safflower is finding a place in farm rotation in Nebraska, California, and some other states there is much interest on the part of the beekeeper to see whether it comes up to expectations as a source of honey. From some neighborhoods come reports that the bees are seldom seen in safflower fields. We have yet to learn under what conditions it can be depended upon to yield its nectar.

It is not often that we get reports of surplus honey from a milk vetch. W. E. Crampton, of Sulphur Springs, Texas, reports that *Astragalus leptocarpus* thrives on rock soils which are not suited to pasture or cultivation. In his locality it covers many acres and yields a good crop of light colored and mild flavored honey in April. Starting early in the month it blooms for about three weeks and yields as high as two supers of surplus per colony. The plant is an annual common to Texas and the Southwest.

The sweet clover weevil is a serious pest in many midwestern localities and in some neighborhoods it is difficult to get a stand of the plants. Unless a dependable means of control can be found, the old-time crops of white honey will be only a memory. Fortunately the demand for bees for pollination offers promise of a new field of operations for the beekeeper.

John E. Johnson, of Verona, Missouri, is a good example of what one can do to improve his local bee pasture. He raises garden sage as a sideline to his bees and finds a ready sale through the stores. When it blooms it provides good bee pasture. He has planted a grove of vitex which is one of the most at-

Frank C. Pellett

tractive honey plants known and which does especially well in the Southwest. Along the streams he plants the golden honey plant, (*Actinomeris squarrosa*), which yields honey very freely in late summer. Johnson is a very interesting old fellow who has spent a long life with the bees and an hour with him is something to be remembered.



Forty-two years is a long time to spend at one task but Nellie David has been papering foundation or packing candles in the Dadant factory since 1907. Every sheet of foundation is wrapped in a thin sheet of paper to protect it from dust or injury. Since she handled several thousand sheets in an average working day, the total over the years runs into the millions. She would probably be very much astonished if she could see the mountains of honey built on the foundation which she prepared for shipment to the thousands of Dadant customers. In recent years she has been polishing and packing candles made of beeswax for use in church services. Candles are burning in hundreds of churches after passing through her hands and little do we realize how many lives are influenced by this careful worker

who tries to insure perfection in any product for which she is responsible.

Some beekeepers are concerned about the planting of the varnish tree, also called Chinese sumac or tree of heaven (*Ailanthus*), because of the poor quality of its honey. There are few localities in America where the tree is sufficiently common to secure dependable information regarding its yield or the quality of its honey. The best information within reach indicates that when first stored the honey has a bitter taste which makes an inferior product. Most reports tell of improvement in quality as ripening proceeds and that it is not objectionable when fully ripened. Some reports even indicate a good quality honey at that stage.

The first report of bees working kudzu comes from J. T. Clark, of Foxworth, Mississippi, who writes that his bees were working it heavily. Since kudzu is so generally planted in many southern localities it is of more than passing interest to learn that the bees may work it under favorable conditions.

Among ornamentals he mentions crape myrtle as blooming for 100 days or more in summer, thus providing long lasting bee pasture. It will be greatly to the advantage of the beekeeper if such shrubs can be more widely planted.

And now we learn that shrub we bought for *Cascara sagrada* is not cascara, but the glossy buckthorn and that cascara is not hardy enough for this climate. The glossy buckthorn is a good source of honey and where it is common beekeepers report plenty of bee activity. It is a bit confusing to find that our shrubs were misnamed. The same thing appears to be true of the shrubby plant we bought for dragonhead and which turns out to be the hyssop of old-time herb gardens. It all goes to show that it is important to verify identifications of new plants to make sure we know what we are talking about.

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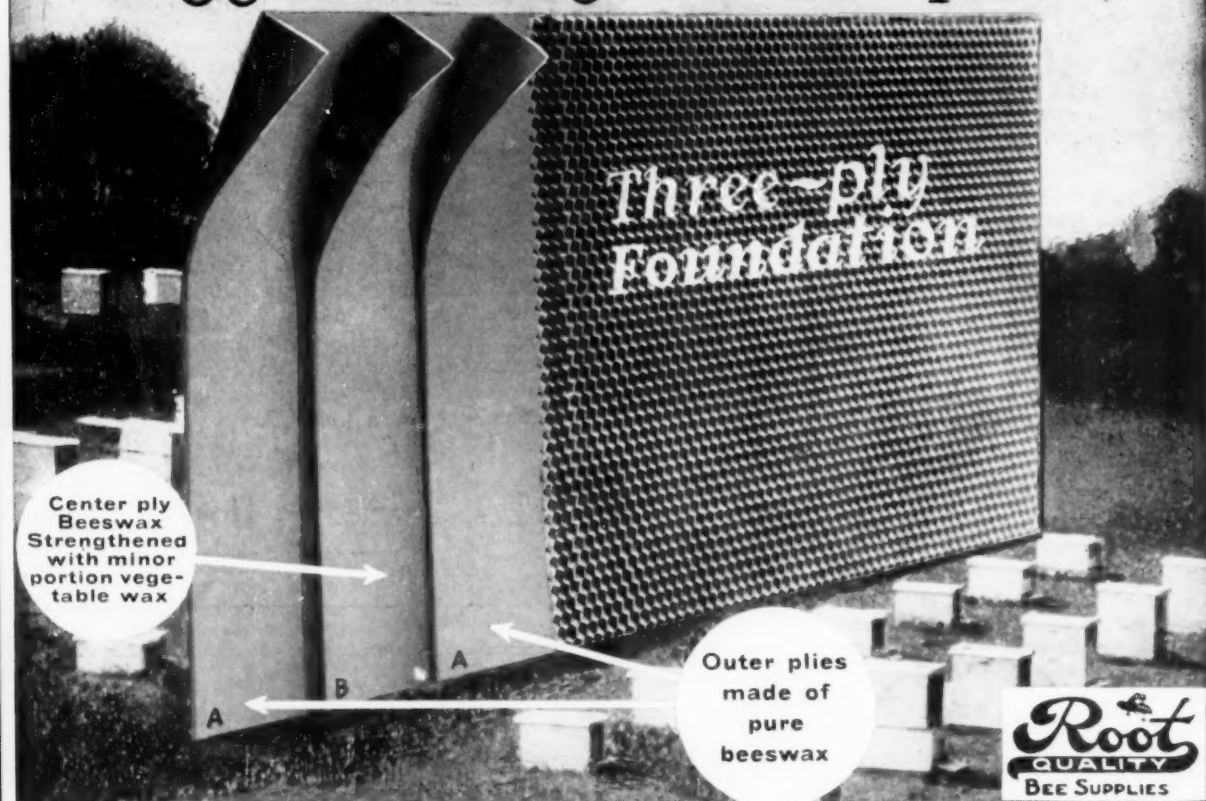
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